

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTHS.

On November 10th, at No. 155 Bluff, Yokohama, bet wife of ARTHUR B. ROUSE, of a son.

On November 22nd, at Shanghai, the wife of ELLIS PUGH, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

On November 27th, 1907, at St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, by the Rev. F. T. Johnson, assisted by Rev. G. Searle, Chaplain to H. M. Forces, Lieut. JOHN THOMSON HOPE, Royal Garrison Artillery, son of Major-General J. E. Hope, Royal Artillery, Henley-on-Thames, to CHRISTINE JESSIE SHELTON, elder daughter of A. Shelton Hooper, Rougemont, Hongkong.

DEATH.

On November 14th, at Yokohama, HARRY THOMAS WAWELL, chief examiner, I. M. Customs Chefoo.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD, C1.

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The French Mail of October 25th arrived, per the s.s. *Tourane*, on Tuesday, the 26th instant; and the English Mail of November 1st arrived, per the s.s. *Delta*, on Thursday, the 28th instant.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

A regulation published in the *Gazette* states that not more than two chairs, whether public or private, may go abreast in Victoria or in the Peak district. When two chairs are abreast, the chair on the right hand side must give way on meeting another chair, vehicle or pedestrian. The flap at the back of a hood of a public ricksha must be rolled up or securely fastened down.

The *N.-C. Daily News* understands that his Honour Wang Hsi (Acting Taotai of Shanghai) has been appointed Director of the Huangpu Conservancy by H.E. Viceroy Tiao Fang. As Taotai Wang Hsi is an enlightened and most affable official, it is quite certain that his Honour will work most harmoniously with his Foreign colleagues on the Conservancy Board.

The report comes from Hankow that during a conversation the other day at Wuchang between a cousin Consul and H.E. Chao Er-hên, Viceroy of the Hinkuang provinces, the former is credited with a suggestion to the Viceroy that, as the people of Chikiang are opposed to a foreign loan for the Soochow Hangchow and Ningpo Railway, it would be a good idea for the Imperial Government to take it up for its own use. "Yes," replied the Viceroy, "then the lenders will be asking for 'privileges and benefits in consideration therefor.'"

The Rev. C. Bone has a cook, a houseboy and a coolie in his employ, and they all reside at his house. On Tuesday evening three friends called to see the houseboy and the coolie, and stayed in their quarters for the night. The evening's conversation, apparently, drifted round to the subject of how to get rich quickly, for before they retired to rest the quintet had agreed to rob the reverend gentleman's cook and to share the spoils. At about five o'clock next morning, when the cook had left for the market, the five rogues procured a pair of pincers from an outhouse, smashed the lock which secured the cook's door, broke open his boxes and stole clothing to the value of \$40, and \$139.50 in money. Sometime after this, Mr. Bone, thinking that the "boy" had forgotten the morning tea, went in search of him and found both houseboy and coolie bound and gagged in the stables. He immediately sent for the Police, and mounted guard over the pair until Sergeant Lee arrived. After making the necessary inquiries the sergeant became suspicious of the bound men. Approaching the "boy" he shook his hands and the rope that bound them fell away. When he tried the stability of the gag, but as soon as he worked the "boy's" jaw the gag fell round his neck. The same thing happened in the case of the coolie, so the sergeant arrested both men and took them to the station. There they were charged with burglary, and both denied all knowledge of the affair. Finally, however, they told their story and "peached" on their accomplices. Police were then despatched to Yaumati where the other three men had gone, most of the property was recovered at a house in Mongkok, and the thieves were arrested in a brothel at Temple Street. The five men were charged before Mr. F. A. Hazland at the Police Court yesterday and after hearing the evidence his Worship sentenced each to six weeks' imprisonment with hard labour and six hours' stock.

HONGKONG AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.

Major Broke presided at the first annual meeting of the Hongkong Amateur Athletic Association held at the Hongkong Hotel on Nov. 25th. There were also present Messrs. H. L. O. Garrett (secretary), F. C. Gray, F. Lammert, L. J. Wishart and Dr. F. H. Kew (committee), Messrs. F. A. Biden, H. T. Jackson, P. Linton, A. von der Pfordten, Woods, J. H. Mead, H. Battiscombe and A. R. Sutherland.

The rules drawn up at the inaugural meeting of the Association were submitted, and Mr. MEAD asked whether a reply had been received from the A.A.A. regarding rule 10 as to whether the records of soldiers who competed in regimental sports would be accepted.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the reply received was a rather sweeping one. It stated that a soldier or sailor who was an amateur lost his amateur status if he competed at a regimental or service meeting whether for a money prize or not. Championships of army races were, however, excepted from this rule.

Members agreed to the adoption of the rules. The CHAIRMAN—Now we are an Association numbering 61 members, no less than 37 of whom have paid their subscriptions in advance. Our liabilities amount to \$350, mostly for printing, and this will be paid out of the subscriptions.

The SECRETARY stated that the committee had adopted a scheme for a series of cross country runs in which entrants would pay \$1. After five runs the man with the highest aggregate would get the challenge cup, while the man who won each race would get a medal.

Members approved of the scheme of the committee, and it was decided to hold the first run on Sunday, December 15th, at 3.30 p.m., over a course to be selected by the subcommittee.

Regarding the holding of an athletic meeting to cover championships not held at any other meetings, the SECRETARY was instructed to write, and obtain the opinion of members. He was also authorised to send the affiliation fee to the A.A.A., London.

KULANGSU (AMOY) MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

Minutes of a meeting of the Council, held at the Board Room, on the 5th November 1907.

Present:—Messrs. W. H. Wallace (Chairman), C. A. V. Bowra, A. F. Gardiner, Tuang Tsan-chew, W. Wilson, S. Okuyama, the Health Officer, and the Secretary.

1. The minutes of the last meeting are read, and confirmed.

2. A letter is read from the Health Officer drawing attention to the insanitary state of a well—said to be the property of the British Consulate at Lih-kee-tah. It is decided to ask the British Consul to have the well put into a sanitary condition, or to hand the well over to the Council as a public well, in which latter event the Council would undertake the necessary repairs.

3. In order to improve the lighting of the Island, the Secretary is instructed to purchase a Kelson patent lamp, and experiment with it on different sites in the Settlement.

4. The Superintendent of Police reports the following cases have been dealt with in the Mixed Court since the last meeting:—

SUMMONSES.

Allowing pigs to stray 4, Selling liquor without a license 4, Assault 9.

SUMMARY ARRESTS.

Being in possession of stolen property 1, Obstructing the Police 1, Assault 1.

(Signed) A. F. GARDINER,
Vice-chairman.

By order,
C. BERKELEY MITCHELL,
Secretary.

THE LANGUAGE OF THE CHINESE PARLIAMENT.

(Daily Press, 25th November.)

Should the Chinese, as they promise, establish a system of representative Government, there is one point of detail which has hitherto not been referred to, but which will probably be found to tax even Chinese ingenuity to adjust quite satisfactorily. If an Imperial general assembly with elective members be established, it is a curious speculation how they will arrange as to the dialect in which the discussions are to be carried on. The Chinese dialects, as our readers are well aware, differ so much that Chinese from one Province are often quite unable to understand those from another; and even where they do so to some extent, they have frequently to resort to a pantomimic writing of a character with the finger of one hand on the palm of the other to make themselves understood. If therefore, there is a *bona fide* elective system, it is difficult to understand how the hon. member for, say, Shanghai with broad and completely local pronunciation is to make himself understood by, say, the member for Canton with the well known snappy pronunciation of that district, or how either of them will be understood by members from Peking speaking the official dialect and entertaining a hearty contempt for those of any other part of the Empire. The solution which will naturally occur to the Chinese is that all discussions must be conducted in the official dialect, and no doubt, at first at least, this will be the plan resorted to. At all events it may be taken as tolerably certain that only men who were well conversant with the *Kuan Hua* would be likely to be selected as members of the Council or Assembly, and thus the choice would be restricted to a comparatively limited class in many places, while in others such as Tientsin and the northern cities and districts generally a much larger field would be open for the selection of representatives. The Nanking dialect, which differs from the official mainly in consonant, and comparatively little in vowel sounds might be acceptable but the larger number of Chinese from other than the two parts indicated could not hope to hold their own, unless they were among those who are well acquainted with the official tongue. Something, therefore, will have to be done to solve this difficulty, if there is to be anything in the form of a Parliament after the foreign model. No doubt it may be assumed that every educated Chinaman speaks the official language, and therefore no difficulty need arise. This is true from the Chinese point of view. In other words, the officials and literati consider that no one who cannot speak the official dialect can be regarded as a man of finished education or worth listening to upon any matters of state importance. But unfortunately this is just one of the old standing prejudices in China which it would be the object of representative institutions to do away with, by providing the means of the views of the mercantile and other classes, who, in a broader sense, are better educated than those too strongly imbued with official tradition, being duly heard. It would therefore be an unfortunate thing, if the choice of representatives were restricted in any such manner, and it is to be hoped that some solution of the difficulty may be found. This would not, of course, be impossible by providing interpreters where necessary, and, in the earlier stages, this should be the course adopted. As time went on, and it became known that a knowledge of the official dialect, or at least something approaching it, was a necessary qualification

to being elected, no doubt a much larger number of Chinese would perfect themselves in it, and, with an object of this kind before them, would find little difficulty in doing so. There are a large number of Chinese, outside the official classes, who have some knowledge of the *Kuan Hua*, but it is not very accurate, and they have no incentive to keep it up. One effect of representative institutions would be to make a common spoken language more general and thus in some measure to do away with the localism which has always been one of the chief difficulties in governing the Chinese as a whole. If this effect be produced, it will be one of the most salutary changes that can take place in China, where the great trouble has always been to get the nation to act as a whole, and with a truly national spirit. The fact that the written language is the same all over China has been a strongly combining force; but this force is by no means so great as that of a common spoken language, which is one of the strongest bonds of sympathy in all parts of the world; and would, no doubt, prove to be as much so in China as in other places.

HIUNG NU NOT HUNS.

(Daily Press, November 26th.)

Dr. AUREL STEIN has proved himself a model explorer, and the results that he has already attained in the till lately mysterious regions of Central Asia lying immediately west of China afford an indication of what we may expect regarding the earlier history of Asiatic civilisation when his explorations come to be still further extended. Lately he has been extending his researches into the districts of the Gobi immediately adjoining western China; and here his researches, though not to the ethnologist likely to be of as great importance as those further west, will for the purposes of the historiographer who desires to understand the rise of the imperial power of China from its foundation by the great T'sin Shihwangti, be of still greater interest. One of the great movements of Asiatic history, whose echoes reached as far as Imperial Rome, had its headquarters in these regions—the struggle for mastery between the Hiung Nu and the Huns, which long remained undecided; and it is therefore of consequence that Dr. Stein should start provided with the latest information derivable on the subject rather than that he should be left of his own devices to struggle out of the Sirbonian bog in which the subject has been left through the errors of DEGUIGNES, and his modern followers. For his age—the earlier part of the eighteenth century—DEGUIGNES was a fair Oriental scholar, but he seems to have known little Chinese, and to have been entirely dependent on second hand translations of the Wanhsien Kangnui, itself a *réchauffée* with no critical acumen of older works of very different authority. DEGUIGNES' History of the Huns may be best described as a work of the same age and similar authority with ROLLIN'S "Ancient History," and it would be as profitable to go to the latter for a history of ancient Egypt or Babylon as to DEGUIGNES for the ancient history of Central Asia. Our modern Chinese scholars are as deficient in critical judgment as their predecessors of the eighteenth century, and have been content to copy their blunders, without, of course, the same excuse; and so Dr. STEIN, not himself a professing Chinese student, has been led into the error of confounding Hunni with Hiung Nu. The error, which amounts to an entire falsification of the ethnographic history of Asia, as well as

dislocating the later history of the Roman Empire, is of importance, the more especially that neither ethnographically nor philologically is there any connection between the two peoples, who are in both respects as far apart as the poles. KLAPROTH a century ago shattered DEGUIGNES' arguments, but the modern sinologist still, from ignorance or malice prepense, elects to repeat the error.

As a fact, while the swarthy low statured dark eyed Hunn described by AMMIANUS MARCELLINUS is an unmistakeable Oghuz, all the descriptions we possess from Chinese sources lead to the conclusion that the Hiung Nu there figured belonged rather to the blond type; was tall, fair complexioned, and possessed that generosity of character which has at all times marked the Turk in contrast with the Oghuz type. The Hiung Nu was, in fact, the true forerunner of the modern Osmanli in feature as in disposition; and the remains of his speech preserved for us by SSEMA T'SIEN are distinctly of the Osmanli type. The true descendants of the Hiung Nu were in fact the Tughul of the sixth century and the Seljuk of the tenth, and through the latter the modern Osmanli. The Hunn of AMMIANUS who so nearly brought the early Byzantine Empire to destruction, and who disturbed the whole of Europe till conquered on the field of Chalons, finds his closest modern representative in the swarthy Vogul of the Urals.

This confusion of Turk and Oghuz is not, however, the only error into which Dr. STEIN has been led by his false guides in his short description of this Gobi land. Equally in error, though the consequences are of less importance, are the supposed identification of Charkhlik and Leolan. Leolan, or as it was apparently subsequently called, Shen-shen, the Nafopu, i.e. Navapur or Newtown of the monk Yuen Chwang was undoubtedly the modern Cherchen. Originally the capital of the old Arjuna tribes of Eastern Turkestan, its history is very instructive, and its capture formed one of the main achievements of the mythical Nanwang in the story of the Great Migration. Charkhlik on the other hand represents the site of the mythical K'i the first home of the Cheos who founded the first kingdom in northern China, the forerunner of the subsequent Empire. It is in fact the Küsse or Ch'esse of the T'sien Han Shu, when it constituted a separate kingdom. As Dr. STEIN rightly tells us, the Lake Lop was in those early days far more extensive than at present, and so the road to Shen-shen had to hug the northern slopes of the modern Altyn Tagh, and passed through the land of Küsse, in modern times known as Gash. This territory in the time of the early Huns was far more fertile and better watered than in modern times, and we find the Emperor Wu offering it as pasture land to the Wusuns, who, however, declined it, whereupon he settled here the Hwanyas who had been dispossessed by the Hiung Nu of the former homes. It has often been a subject of wonder why the ancient travellers in Central Asia going west from Shacheo or Tunhwang, instead of proceeding due west, made a detour far north by way of Khamil whence they proceeded by Cherchen to the west. The explanation is to be found in this former great extension of Lop, which in the early middle ages seemed to have for a time, at least, blocked the southern road. When the road was re-opened the desert was found to have so far advanced that few travellers ventured on making the journey. Up to the time of the Wei Shu, where the way stations are mentioned, the lines of

military works established by the Han monarchs seem to have been kept in good order, but under the later monarchs of the dynasty, who had lost the energy of their predecessors these works were gradually suffered to fall into decay, and the sandy desert made rapid advances, so that with the rise of Mohammedanism and the decay of the Buddhist monasteries that had flourished under the rule of the earlier Wei sovereigns, the whole of these countries became a howling desert.

Here history repeats itself. In our own times the savage Tso Tsungtang was sent under the present regency to put down the Mohammedan rising which had taken place as a sequence to the rule of the Amir Yakub in Kashgar. Tso's sole idea of repression was extermination, and the entire country was devastated, and the inhabitants, men, women, and children, ruthlessly massacred. Tso was indeed temporarily successful: he made a howling wilderness of the oases that had up to his day survived, and the land deprived of its inhabitants, and with its irrigation works destroyed, has in the latter period of the nineteenth century become an irreclaimable desert, never more to be restored to cultivation. Such is the story of Eastern Turkestan, which we are now, after the explorations of Dr. Stefn, beginning to comprehend. A much wiser course in the interests of humanity at large would have been to have listened to the prayers of of YAKUB BEG, and assisted him in the founding of his kingdom; but through a mistaken policy of supporting China on every occasion, whether right or wrong, we have aided in the final ruin of Central Asia, and weakened our own rule in India.

GHOSTS.

(Daily Press, November 27th.)

The presence in Hongkong of a spiritual charlatan who is doing miracles for the edification of the Chinese demands local attention to the character of the average professor of the supernatural. It would appear that human credulity has no limits. What the Chinese think of the "gift of tongues," an American miracle now manifesting in Hongkong, it is impossible to say. It is not only they, however, who fall a ready prey to the Higher Foolishness. In various papers from Home we have been noticing lately instances of what is either incredible credulity or deliberate depravity of deceit. "Serious students of psychic phenomena" are invited by one hitherto respectable journal to consider the case of an Italian gentleman in South Kensington, to whom a noise in the chimney ultimately proved to be the voice of a far away niece, who had been murdered at the same instant. We read that "there is no doubt as to the accuracy of the details." In these days the public ought to know better than to swallow all the "unimpeachable authorities" so glibly trotted out by careless journalists. Only lately, in connection with the proposed Chinese fête at Hongkong, we were asked to accept, "from quarters known to be entirely trustworthy," the statement that the price of necessities had already risen in consequence of the announcement of next month's festival. That would doubtless be sufficient for some people, who would not even read to the end of the article, which, before it closed, completely contradicted its own opening announcement by honestly admitting that it was declared by others that there had been no appreciable rise in prices. The very article that began by citing an "entirely trustworthy" testimony concluded with an acknowledgment that the evidence was conflicting, and

with a mild request that the promoters would ascertain the truth before proceeding. We all want to ascertain the truth, as far as possible, and it is to be hoped that more care will be exercised in the use of such phrases as "entirely trustworthy," "unimpeachable authority," and the like. In people who teach faith—defined by an inspired school-boy as "belief in what you know aint so"—any amount of dogmatism is excusable, so long as they stick to their rôle and don't pretend to logical argument. A worse example from the Home papers is fittingly prefaced with the following formula, which we italicise to emphasise the way in which an air of vouching for accuracy is generally given to the careless reader. "An astounding story of spiritualism is published here [Rome] to-day, for the accuracy of which, it is stated, many highly-placed persons are prepared to vouch." Even supposing they were numerous, and very highly-placed—supposing they had vouched, instead of being said to be ready to vouch, nothing would make the astounding story believable to a sane mind. It tells how the "spirit" of a woman deceased besieged various "mediums" until at last one consented to communicate with her husband, who came and obtained information about a sum of money she had buried in the garden. He found the money, of course. Not long ago we noticed the case of an American "scientist" who had discovered the weight of a human soul. Here, now, is another soul fussing over material money. In this connection, as there are apparently people who will swallow anything from talkers who happen to be "highly-placed," we may quote Sir OLIVER LODGE's latest. He is a scientist with a mental twist to which we do not care to put a name, and the author of an egregious pseudo-scientific catechism which promises to add another terror to childhood. Lecturing to an audience, mostly fools, on "The immortality of the soul," he delivered himself of the following:

"The first simple truth that must be insisted on," he said, "is the commonplace, but often ignored and even denied, fact that there is nothing immortal or persistent about the body except the material atoms of which it is composed."

"Any notion that these same atoms will at some future date be re-collected and united with the dissociated and immaterial portion, so as to constitute once more the complete man as he appeared here on earth, and who is thereafter to last for ever, is a pagan superstition, though most unfortunately believed—or at least taught—by one great branch of the Christian Church."

"I want to make the distinct assertion that no really existing thing perishes, but only changes its form."

"Physical science teaches us this clearly enough concerning matter and energy, the two great entities with which it has to do. Can life be a nonentity that has built up particles of carbon and hydrogen and oxygen into the form of an oak or an eagle or a man?"

"Not so; nor is it so with mind and consciousness and will, nor with memory and love and adoration, nor all the manifold activities which at present strangely interact with matter and appeal to our bodily senses and terrestrial knowledge."

"They are not 'nothing'; nor shall they ever vanish into nothingness or cease to be. They did not arise with us; they never did spring into being. They are as eternal as the God-head itself, and in the eternal Being they shall endure for ever."

In trying the circus trick of riding two horses at once, trying with indifferent success to "keep in" with the Bishops and yet to tell the truth as his intellect sees it, Sir OLIVER LODGE has said many extraordinary things; but this time he must certainly have stung at once the Bishops and the lay noodles. Perhaps the "New

Theologist," Mr. CAMPBELL of the City Temple, who spends his time explaining that the Bible doesn't really mean what it says, but what *he* says, will appreciate it. For ourselves, we give the quotation for its possible effect on those who may expect spirits to tell them where the silver teapot lies buried, and on those who have lately been wondering what is the message to Hongkong of the "gift of tongues" just imported from America. We do hope the public asylums of the Empire are not short of funds.

MANIFESTATIONS.

(Daily Press November 28th.)

It never rains but it pours. We have to return to a subject merely glanced at yesterday, after studying the Rev. Lord WILLIAM GASCOYNE-CECIL's article on the situation in Korea. In doing so, we hope all readers will remember that there is a sincerity of the intellect as well as of the heart. Though many morally honest people seem content to live in a mental muddle, the day is long past when newspapers were expected to sanction all that sort of thing. No honest endeavour to render a clear situation should be feared; and nowadays, men of the Rev. Lord GASCOYNE-CECIL's class and position realize that it does not pay to burke open discussion. The help and sympathy of newspapers being freely drawn upon by them, they are prepared for criticism also. In the article reproduced on pages 3 and 5, Lord GASCOYNE-CECIL deprecates generalization, and then generalizes freely in his comparison of Koreans, Chinese, and Japanese. Apropos the Japanese lack of self-consciousness, which (though they are far from the purity of Adam's Paradise) is really an Edenic innocence, he mentions that the Koreans are essentially a decent people, and then his subsequent comments make a complete admission that their alleged decency is really a prudent prudery. The incident cited is merely a Korean instance of the old maid's telescope. They have, he slyly says, "an almost Western prejudice against acknowledging the fact that women have legs." We can, however, afford to pass over his Lordship's reference to the "indecent" of the "heathen soldiery" of Japan. It is his claim that the Koreans are accepting Christianity enthusiastically and earnestly, and particularly his illustrations of their enthusiasm, that most require analytic consideration. We are told that the Koreans are embracing Christianity because in their present national circumstances (not so very different, be it noted, to those they have all along been experiencing, so far as independence is concerned) it promises to salve the wound of humbled pride, and tends to a recovery of their ancient dignity. How? Naturally, not with "the feeble weapons of this world." It must be because it teaches them to love their enemies, to pray for them that spitefully do use them. Any one who knows the Korean people will be surprised to be told that they yearn in that fashion, but the Rev. Lord GASCOYNE-CECIL believes it and says it. One Korean, whose wife had suffered severely from Japanese brutality, "came to the mission room"—not, like the usual rice-Christian, to demand intervention—but, according to his Lordship, "asking the prayers of others to enable him to perform the very difficult Christian duty of forgiveness." That is positively miraculous. The Japanese soldier had broken the Korean's wife's earthen cooking dish, and when she demanded compensation, he had "struck her with his weapon and wounded her so

that she had to go to the mission hospital." CONFUCIUS would not be so unreasonable as to expect the Korean husband to do what Lord GASCOYNE-CECIL reports with approval. We feel shy about speculating as to how many of his Lordship's brethren would dream of doing it. Still, so far we have straightforward testimony only, and we are in duty bound to accept it. It does look, accepting those statements, as if the Korean enthusiasm and earnestness for Christianity are fairly claimed. But now take his Lordship's chief bit of evidence. Examine his account of the phenomenon which, he thinks, "should fill the breast of every missionary in China with hope." China would be Christian in the near future, he adds, if it could experience "a like awakening." It was at Pyeng-yang, at a missionary meeting. There were no "moving" hymns, no "emotional" speeches. Indeed, his Lordship ascertained from Bishop TURNER that the Koreans as a nation are not emotional. The phenomenon must be separated "from those emotional manifestations of religion with which most of us are conversant under the name of revival meetings, and which," his Lordship ventures to add, "most of us distrust." How, after this stipulation, his Lordship's brain could consent to the subsequent comment that the Pyeng-yang phenomena were "very closely akin" to those described in the journal of JOHN WESLEY, we cannot conceive, except on the hypothesis that he is one of those whom we have referred to before as morally honest persons in a mental muddle. At the Pyeng-yang manifestation, we read that "with a rush a power from without seemed to take hold of the meeting." Europeans described its manifestations as terrifying. Nearly everybody was in "poignant mental anguish." Some sprang to their feet, shouting; others, rent with agony, clenched their fists and struck their heads on the ground. For four hours this scene (*sic*) went on, and the missionaries were horrorstricken, frightened (*sic*) and reduced to tears. This slobber scene "went on for several days" afterwards, during which the missionaries felt both horror and gratitude at the confessional. "A trusted native pastor confessed to adultery," for instance, thus illustrating in one shot how the Koreans are essentially decent and eager for Christianity. Another "trusted native preacher had misused his position to rob the mission." When his Lordship came later and saw these unemotional Christians, so much nobler than the indecent and brutal Japanese heathen, he was struck by the look of quiet devotion that shone on their faces. Well, his Lordship declares that Christianity transcends all other faiths, not only expressing the aspirations of humanity, but making those aspirations possible of attainment. It is nearer to those Korean hearts, he thinks, than it is "to those of the most sincere body of European Christians." We willingly credit him with honesty as well as mental muddle, and all we can do is to feel sorry for the waste of time, trouble, and money spent in attaining results which, on the face of them, any normal vision is bound to assess at their true value.

ABSTRACTIONS.

(Daily Press, November 29th.)

Though it is usually the young person with neglected hair and careless tie who talks about the Why, Whence, and Whither, most human beings give the matter more than an occasional thought. Our thesis for the moment, not, we trust, overly startling, is that too many do so; that, in

short, taking thought is immoral, and study—at least study on such transcendental and impractical lines—is vanity and vexation. This comes as a natural sequel to our two previous efforts, complaining, as it were, if the others had not been quite so casual, a sort of trilogy of popularized metaphysics. It is almost banally conventional nowadays for a newspaper to discuss the unknowable, but as Hongkong has not hitherto reached the stage of the Silly Season "Do we believe?" correspondence, we would prefer to ignore it if it were not getting so intrusive in our mail matter. Looking over a collection of translated Arabian adages, we found these:

"All speculative research ends in perplexing uncertainty."

"I sought in the great sea of theoretical learning a bottom on which to stand—and found nothing, but one wave dashing me against another."

"After a lifetime of research and learning, I amassed nothing but such phrases as: 'It is said' or 'They say.'"

"O erring reason, I am sick of thee! I take a single step and thou movest a whole mile away from me."

"The object sought in abstract study is either a truth which cannot be known, or a vain thing which it is useless to know."

The intelligent Arab, he it observed, puts no value on what have been aptly called intellectual gymnastics. He recks not of effort as its own reward. Thought for thought's sake is not in his vocabulary. We are, of course, merely observing another rendering of the verdict of Kolaeth, but with the profound pessimism of Ecclesiastes left out; it also ignores the reckless summing up of the repenting Omar. Could we but trust the charity of the theologians, we would enlist the parable of the lilies in the service of our thesis, but we dread the charge of irreverence as much as we loathe the thing itself. We may, perhaps, venture to cite the beautiful parable of the garden of Eden, and to point out that the original sin was that of absorbing knowledge of good and evil, of, in fact, taking thought about matters too deep for creatures whose sole duty was to live and be happy in a garden, a pair of innocent animals. The ideas indicated in the feldy phrases, "Back to the land," "Back to Nature," and "The Simple Life," would seem to lead logically to the Age of Innocence. Is the best ideal, the ultimate decision of man when weary of the unsolvable problem, to be as the lilies that do not, or as the beasts of the field, which WHITMAN envies because they do not lie awake at night bemoaning their sins? "Oh, but," interjects the decent man, persuaded that he is worthy of nobler classification than the animal kingdom, that he has a destiny, something to do, perhaps even "to leave the world better than he found it,"—"Oh, but, come now. What are our brains for?" Then will follow one of his self-evident propositions—these being such a comfort, as they save thinking—that life would not be "worth living" if we were no more than the beasts that perish. As our thesis is that thinking is immoral, we will not request that thoughtful consideration be given to that self-evident truth. Thought about the happiness of duty and the duty of happiness is apt, anyway, to be of the "regressus ad infinitum" order, and the science of epistemology makes men mad. We have thought of an answer to the de aut man's poser, however, "what are our brains for?" We cannot presume to advocate it seriously, especially after defining our thesis; but because analogies are loveable, and because it

is an idea, a brand new and original idea, so far as we know, we advance it for inspection by those who are not afraid to dandle even ugly babies of the mind. Man's brains discovered the syllogism. By that syllogism is man lifted above the beasts of the field. Sir OLIVER LODGE would tell you so. Our new idea for a possible answer is this: may not the phenomenon of abstract thought be the odour of the flower of what somebody—KIPLING, wasn't it?—called the man plant? Botanists inform us that the flower is merely an outcome of a gradual metamorphosis of the foliage lower down, that floral leaves are the result of a degeneration in the quality of the sap. In any case, it is not admitted that the "lower animals" are not efflorescent also; but assuming that the *genus homo* does monopolize thought, is it necessarily progress? May it not be due to degenerated sap? This would fit our thesis beautifully, and the underlying homology of all plant foliar organs would, by analogy, do the Socialistic trick of levelling us down with the jungle folk. Alas! already the analogy betrays us and our ridiculous thesis, for most people love flowers, and the botanists have taught us their use in the world. So there we are just where we began, at the mercy of the dogmatists—one wave dashing us against another. At least, with flickering courage we may persist that this futile excursus has to some extent warranted the thesis. After this, we will be as wise as the Arabs, and, leaving vain abstractions, stick to more material matters, such as the awakening of China.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on the 28th instant in the Council Chamber.

PRESENT:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, SIR FREDERICK JOHN DEALTRY LUGARD, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O.

HIS EXCELLENCY COLONEL C. H. DARLING, General Officer Commanding the Troops.

HON. MR. F. H. MAY (Colonial Secretary).

HON. MR. W. REES DAVIES (Attorney-General).

HON. MR. J. M. THOMSON, (Colonial Treasurer.)

HON. MR. W. CHATHAM, C.M.G. (Director of Public Works).

HON. MR. A. W. BREWIN (Registrar General).

HON. COMMANDER BASIL R. H. TAYLOR, R.N. (Harbour Master)

HON. DR. HO KAI, M.B., C.M., C.V.G.

HON. MR. H. E. POLLOCK, K.C.

HON. M. E. A. HEWETT.

HON. MR. J. KESWICK.

HON. MR. WEI YUK.

MR. A. G. M. FLETCHER (Clerk of Councils).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed.

PAPERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the following papers:—Report of the Examiners of Queen's College for the year 1907; Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies relating to the services of the Sanitary Commission; Report of the Director of Public Works for the year 1906.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table Financial minutes Nos. 50 to 62, and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee. In doing so he said—Numbers 61 and 62 were not printed in time to circulate to hon. members, but they are comparatively small items and I shall be able to explain them in the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by Command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table Report of the Finance Committee, No. 10, and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

CLEANLINESS AND VENTILATION BYELAWS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I notice Sir, with regret, that the wrong bye-law has been printed and circulated, and would ask that this item stand over till next meeting.

Members agreed.

THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Sir, With reference to the Bill to amend the Law relating to Companies, it will be within the recollection of the Council that the Committee stage was adjourned to enable the Government to consider a point raised by the hon. gentleman opposite in regard to the Bill. Now, Sir, I have had opportunity to consider the point raised by the hon. gentleman carefully, and the conclusion at which I have arrived is that the objections which he raised are remote. The issue of a licence for an extra colonial register is discretionary in the Governor-in-Council, and is an annual one. Whilst transfer fees are payable by shareholders, the company under the Ordinance has to pay the licence fee for the benefit of shareholders, and it is to be presumed the company would not go to the expense unless it had a sufficient number of shareholders interested to make it practicable for the company to ask for a licence. The hon. gentleman, it seems, is under a misapprehension, in supposing that the power of obtaining an extra colonial register is in the individual shareholders. This right is inherent in the company itself; the licence fee is an annual one, and should be a source of revenue. I may, however, Sir, point out that in order to make the position clear, and in order to show that the object of the Bill is to give to companies whose main business is carried on elsewhere the right of having a local register, I propose to ask the committee to allow me to insert a proviso to the first sub-section of section 4, to the effect that such company must satisfy the Governor-in-Council that the principal part of its business is carried on at or near the place where it desires to keep the register. That will meet the hon. gentleman. As I have said, the discretion is in the Governor-in-Council; that discretion will be exercised with caution, and if that proviso is inserted a licence will be granted subject to that condition. I trust, Sir, that that amendment will make our position even clearer, and will be satisfactory to the hon. gentleman. There are, I may say, certain other amendments more or less of a formal character which I will ask the committee to insert in the Bill. I have had an opportunity of conferring with the hon. and learned gentleman on my left, and he has certain proposals to make which clear up certain ambiguities which appear on the face of the Bill. There are also one or two minor amendments which I propose to ask the committee to insert. I move, Sir, that the Council resolve itself into committee.

Council went into Committee and considered the Bill clause by clause. Certain amendments were made, and the title of the Bill was altered to read "An Ordinance to authorise Companies registered under the Companies Ordinance, 1865, to keep local registers of their members outside the Colony."

On Council resuming the ATTORNEY-GENERAL reported that the Bill had passed through committee, and moved that it be read a third time.

Hon. Mr. KESWICK seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Bill was then read a third time, passed, and became law.

THE NOTARIES PUBLIC ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Sir, With reference to the Bill relating to Notaries Public that has engaged the attention of the Council, I am instructed to state that the Bill was introduced as an uncontroversial one, and in view of the objections that have been raised to its enactment it is not proposed to proceed with it at present.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Council stands adjourned until this day fortnight.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was then held—the COLONIAL SECRETARY presiding. The following votes were passed:

SANITARY.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of Three hundred Dollars (\$300) in aid of the vote, Sanitary Department, Sanitary Staff, Other Charges, Cemeteries Incidental Expenses.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of one hundred and four thousand and fifty dollars (\$104,050) in aid of the vote, Public Works, Recurrent, and Public Works Extraordinary, for the following items:—

PUBLIC WORKS, RECURRENT.

<i>Buildings.</i>	
1 Maintenance of Buildings	\$8,000
<i>Communications.</i>	
4 Maintenance of Roads and Bridges in City	1,000
5 Maintenance of Roads and Bridges outside City	2,500
8 Maintenance of Telegraphs	4,500
<i>Drainage.</i>	
10 Maintenance of Sewers, Nullahs, &c.	4,500
<i>Lighting.</i>	
13 Gas Lighting, Kowloon	350
<i>Miscellaneous.</i>	
16 Maintenance of Public Cemetery	400
19 Miscellaneous Services	1,000
20 Typhoon and Rainstorm Damages	66,800
<i>Water Works.</i>	
23 Maintenance of Shaukiwan	550
25 Maintenance of Lai Chi Kok	400
	\$ 89,700

PUBLIC WORKS, EXTRAORDINARY.

<i>Drainage.</i>	
14 Training Nullahs	4,000
<i>Miscellaneous.</i>	
22 Miscellaneous Works	7,000
<i>Water Works.</i>	
29 Miscellaneous Water Works	550
Insanitary Property	
Resumption	2,800
	14,350

Total, ... \$104,050
Hon. Mr. POLLOCK.—I would like some information about the insanitary property resumption, \$2800.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS.—That, Sir, is to enable the Li Lung Lane to be completed.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK.—I would also like to know where the nullahs are that have been trained?

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS.—One, Sir, is at Happy Valley, an extension of the nullah beyond the enclosure of the grandstand. Two others are in Wanchai, and the rest are in the section lying east of Albany nullah.

The CHAIRMAN.—The particular causes of this excess, I think, are the draining of the swamp near the Military Hospital; the substitution of stone paving for concrete on Bowen Road; inverted nullahs and various miscellaneous works.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of Three hundred Dollars (\$300) in aid of the vote, Medical Departments, B.—Hospitals and Asylums, Infectious Hospitals, Hospital Hulk *Hygeia*, Other Charges, Provisions, &c.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of One thousand four hundred and eighty-two Dollars (\$1,482) in aid of the vote, Medical Department, B.—Hospitals and Asylums, Infectious Hospitals, Hospital Hulk "Hygeia," Other Charges, Provisions, &c.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of Four hundred and fifty-six Dollars (\$456) in aid of the vote, Medical Departments, A.—Staff, Other Charges, Health Officer of Port, Repairs to Launch.

POLICE AND PRISON VOTES.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of Three hundred and forty-three Dollars (\$343) in aid of the vote, Police and Prison Departments, A.—Police, Other Charges, Street Service.

The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of Two hundred and ninety Dollars (\$290) in aid of the vote, Police and Prison Departments, B.—Fire Brigade, Other Charges, Typhoon Damages.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of Twenty-five Dollars (\$25) in aid of the vote, Police and Prison Departments, C.—Prison, Other Charges, Executioner's Fees, and Allowances for inflicting Corporal Punishment.

COMMUNICATIONS AND NEW ROADS.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of Four thousand one hundred and eighty-four Dollars (\$4,184) in aid of the vote, Public Works, Extraordinary, Communications, New Roads in New Territories.

BOTANICAL AND FORESTRY DEPARTMENT.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of One thousand Dollars (\$1,000) in aid of the vote, Botanical and Forestry Department, Other Charges, Forestry in New Territories.

HARBOUR MASTER'S DEPARTMENT.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of Two hundred and eighty Dollars (\$280) in aid of the vote, Harbour Master's Department, A.—Harbour Office, Other Charges, Electric Fans and Light.

CONVEYANCE AND TRANSPORT.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of One thousand one hundred Dollars (\$1,100) in aid of the vote, Police and Prison Departments, A.—Police, Other Charges, for the following items:—

Conveyance of Police, Prisoners and Transport	\$850
Incidental Expenses	250

Total ... \$1,100.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of Five hundred Dollars (\$500) in aid of the vote, Colonial Secretary's Department and Legislature, Other Charges, Incidental Expenses.

SERVICES OF THE SANITARY COMMISSIONERS.

The following letter from the Secretary of State was laid before the Legislative Council yesterday, by command of His Excellency the Governor.

Downing Street,
18th October, 1907.

Sir,—In the absence of your predecessor, the Officer Administering the Government submitted to me the Report of the Commission appointed to consider the administration of the Sanitary Regulations of Hongkong.

Certain questions arising out of the Commissioners' Report have already formed the subject of references to me, and I have no doubt that other matters discussed by them are now engaging your attention. In the meantime I take this opportunity of requesting that you will express to the members of the Commission my appreciation of the careful and thorough manner in which they conducted what was evidently a difficult and laborious investigation.—I have, &c.,

ELGIN.

Governor, Sir F. D. LUGARD, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O., &c., &c.

They are having busy times at the Post Office these days, what with the Christmas mail and the compiling of statistics which will be used in determining the turnover of each Post Office in the Postal Union for the next six years. The excess of the Christmas mail this year as compared with that of last year is 69 bags of letters and 14 boxes of parcels. The total taken by three mails in 1906 was 372 bags of letters and 115 boxes of parcels, whereas the three steamers taking mails due in England before Christmas this year carried 441 bags of letters and 129 boxes of parcels. Of late the Post Office staff have been exceedingly hard at work, even the Postmaster-General, Mr. C. McIlmurray, being at the office shortly after seven o'clock in the morning.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on Nov. 27th at the Board Room. The Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson (president) presided, and there were also present Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, C.M.G., (Vice-President), Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin (Registrar-General), Dr. F. Clark, (Medical Officer of Health), Dr. H. Macfarlane (Assistant Medical Officer of Health), Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Mr. H. Humphreys, Mr. Lau Chu-pak, Mr. Fung Wa-chun, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock, secretary.

VACCINE.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK, pursuant to notice, asked the following questions, to which the PRESIDENT's replies are appended:—

1. Is there a good stock of fresh vaccine in hand? Yes, there are over 1200 tubes of vaccine lymph in hand.

2. Complaints having been received that the vaccine now being used is ineffective, is it the old stock? The vaccine during the summer months became weakened, as no buffalo calves were available; some have been recently obtained so the strain has been fortified.

Will, in future, a good supply of fresh vaccine be got ready, every year, at the beginning of the vaccination season? Yes, as long as I am head of the Medical Department.

SECONDED POLICEMEN.

A letter from the Colonial Secretary, in reply to a letter from the secretary of the Board, stated:—With reference to your letter No. 4892/07 of 13th September last, I am directed to acquaint you for the information of the Board that the four policemen, Murphy Hinds, Willis and Sutherland, seconded for service in the Sanitary Department, will revert to the Police Department as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT.—The whole of this correspondence should be laid before the Board unless there is some satisfactory reason forthcoming for withholding the earlier part of the correspondence. I do not recollect having seen the papers referred to in the opening paragraph of the President's letter.

The PRESIDENT.—The minutes are purely departmental, but I can read them, if you wish. The first is—I understand you wish to appoint a successor to Inspector Gidley. The appointee will be engaged on a monthly agreement, and will be liable to dismissal with a month's notice. The second minute stated that inspectors engaged on a temporary basis would be liable to dismissal with a month's notice. These appointments were made after the sitting of the Commission, and the inspectors engaged were appointed only on a temporary basis.

Mr. HOOPER.—There was only one thing struck me in connection with this. Perhaps you would not be able to give us any information with regard to the recommendation of the Commission that all future appointments of sanitary inspectors should be on the same basis as police appointments. I suppose there is no communication from the Government in regard to that.

The PRESIDENT.—The staff is now being diminished, a result of the report of the Commission.

Mr. HOOPER.—With regard to the second minute, it would be interesting to the Board to be informed why Inspector Gidley left the service.

The SECRETARY.—The first Gidley?

Mr. HOOPER.—I think the other Gidley has also left. Where an officer does leave the service I strongly recommend that the Government should notify it in the same way that they notify his appointment, so that we may know exactly where we stand.

The SECRETARY.—The leaving of Inspector Gidley is still under consideration by the Government.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE BYELAWS.

The following letter from the Government agent this subject was read:—Referring to your letter No. 115 of the 16th May last, I am directed to inquire what alteration the Board propose in the byelaws relating to infectious disease in pursuance of the third resolution passed by them on 14th May. (Sd.) F. H. May, Colonial Secretary.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK minuted—I suggest that a sub-committee be appointed to consider and report on this question.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL.—The whole Board had better consider the byelaws in committee in the first place.

The PRESIDENT.—I think it would be much more conducive to our coming to some decision on the matter if the Chinese members, or any members concerned, would present in writing to the Board what they consider the alterations should be. We can then circulate such opinions.

This suggestion was adopted.

THE BOARD AND THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK returned to the subject of the Governor-in-Council ignoring the recommendations of the Board, and wrote as follows:—

"I beg to request that you will be good enough to furnish me and the other members of the Board, if they so wish, with a return showing

(a) The number of the Board's recommendations which have been accepted or refused by the Governor-in-Council from January 1, 1907 and (b) where the recommendations were refused whether the Board decided differently from what the Building Authority or the Medical Officer of Health advised."

The SECRETARY's reply was as follows:—(a) The total recommendations relative to sections 175, 180, 188, 153, etc., since January 1, number 176. (b) Recommendations refused by the Government, 4. (c) Still under consideration by the Government, 2."

In the case of (b) a table was given showing how the Medical Officer of Health had advised; how the Board had recommended; and the Government's action was attached. In the case of the Ko Shing Street houses, an application to erect latrines on the roof, the Medical Officer of Health and Board recommended granting, but the Government refused.

With regard to 83 Connaught Road, an application to retain a water tank in the back yard, the Medical Officer of Health advised:—In this case there was a latrine alongside the water tank with no interspace between. The water in the tank was very dirty and there was also a bathroom in the backyard. I see no objection to the latrine and bathroom if the water tank is removed. The premises are used as an oil store godown. There are water taps available. The tank is 4 feet 2 in. by 3 ft. 5 in. by 3 ft. and the yard is 13 ft. by 15 ft. The Board recommended that the application be granted but the Government refused.

Another instance was in respect to 31 Gage Street, an application to retain a water tank in the backyard. The Medical Officer of Health recommended refusal, the Board recommended granting, but the Government refused.

The fourth case referred to 351 Queen's Road West, an application for exemption from complying with section 175. The Medical Officer of Health minuted:—The Board may feel disposed to grant exemption to 353, which is a corner house, though I am not prepared to recommend this, but in the case of 351, I certainly think that half verandah and half kitchen should be provided. The premises are fairly deep and very badly lit at the back. The back part of 353 is well lit by side windows; the back part of 351 is very badly lit, especially on the ground floor. The Board decided to grant the application for exemption, subject to the consent of the Governor-in-Council being obtained, for so long as the lane in the rear was not built over. The Government decided to grant the application for the half verandah, half kitchen, as in the case of 351.

When the reply was circulated Mr. LAU CHU-PAK minuted:—The Board's recent recommendations have been refused in almost every case, and as the Board has no power to grant applications for exemption or modification such applications should in future be forwarded direct to the Government. As things go at the present, personally I think it simply waste of valuable time in discussing and making recommendations on them.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL.—The return may be laid on the table. The Government is in possession of the views of the Sanitary Commission and no further action seems called for until the Commission's report has been considered and the views of the Government published.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT.—I am not disposed to endorse Mr. Lau Chu-pak's statement, as it is laid down in the Ordinance under which the Sanitary Board works that certain applications for exemption should be forwarded to the Board for consideration, and only the proper procedure should be followed in the future whether the Governor-in-Council refuses to adopt the decision of the majority of the Board or not. I see no reason why, because the Governor-in-Council does not adopt a decision of the majority of the Board, the clause should be wiped out. We should continue to recommend even though our recommendations are not always endorsed by the Governor-in-Council. It would be a very retrograde step to adopt Mr. Lau Chu-pak's proposal simply because the Government in a few isolated cases has not adopted the decision of the majority of the Board.

Mr. HOOPER.—I would go further than Mr. Hewett. The Governor-in-Council has no power to adopt modifications until we have recommended them. We make them; the Governor simply confirms them. Therefore I think the matter must stand over.

The PRESIDENT.—As a matter of fact only four out of 176—

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK.—It will be time enough to discuss it when the matter comes up for consideration.

The PRESIDENT.—I was saying that only four out of 176 recommendations have been refused.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK.—What I had specially under consideration was the recommendations under section 175, but as the Board has agreed not to discuss it just now I will defer my remarks.

COMMON LODGING HOUSE LICENCES.

Correspondence was submitted relative to the issue of a common lodging house licence at No. 9, Queen Street.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL minuted—I think the practice objectionable of delaying applications for licences till the applicant has complied with certain regulations which are not included in the conditions of the licence, but I have always thought it undesirable to delay an application for a licence from a tenant, pending certain structural alterations in no way connected with the purpose for which the licence is applied for, being made by the landlord. In this case the alterations will have to be made whether the licence is granted or not, and I think the application ought to go forward and the provision of adequate window area be dealt with separately.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.—The house is evidently unfit for a licence as it does not comply with byelaw 4, being found quite unfit. Do you propose to issue the licence before the necessary alterations have been made to make it in accordance with the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance?

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL.—I should like to issue the licence now and leave the provision of light to be dealt with separately by the Sanitary Department. Even if the licence is issued the owner will still have to make the alterations.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.—I fail to see that the Registrar-General can licence a common lodging house until the Board is satisfied that the house is suitable for such a purpose.

Mr. HOOPER.—I don't remember any application for the registration of a house as a common lodging house coming before the Board. Apparently sections Nos. 3 and 4 of the byelaws relating to common lodging houses have been ignored.

The PRESIDENT.—With reference to the question of issuing common lodging house licences, I knew there was some resolution before dealing with the matter, but it took some time to find it. It dates back as far as July 1895. It was then decided that licences should be granted where the premises sought to be licensed were in accordance with the byelaws.

Mr. HOOPER.—With regard to that I think I am right in saying that that resolution is nullified altogether as it was not made by this Sanitary Board. This Board is here by virtue of an order made in 1903, and its constitution may be different for all I know from the former one. Then there are the common lodging house byelaws which say that other byelaws shall be adopted. They naturally form part of a schedule to an ordinance passed by the Legislative Council. The reason I question

the resolution was because it was brought to my notice the other day that somebody—either a sanitary inspector or someone from the Registrar-General's department—was calling at these houses, taking back certificates and issuing others which allowed less persons to reside in these houses. That I maintain, is illegal, and I think all applications for eating house licences had better come before the Board. I don't think an officer of this department should revoke any certificates which we have granted.

The President.—You are practically raising another issue. What is before us just now is the reason why this procedure has been carried out.

Hon. Mr. Hewitt.—With regard to what Mr. Hooper says, it appears to me that section 268 is absolutely clear. Section 3 of the byelaws is equally clear and existing applications cannot apparently be dealt with, but fresh applications can be made to the Registrar-General for the registration of a house as a common lodging house. That does not touch existing licences. Apparently what has been done has been done by the officers of the department without the sanction of the Board, and there is no question that it is absolutely illegal. If there is any question about it we should have it referred to the Law Adviser of the Government.

The President.—I don't think it is illegal because the officers are practically under the heads of the department.

Hon. Mr. Hewitt.—An officer of the sanitary department may, as an officer of that department, come under the heading of a Government official, but it is distinctly stated that inspection can only be made by an officer of the Board. It is illegal to have it done in any other way.

Mr. Hooper.—Taking the case on its merits, and without any technicalities for a moment: supposing an officer of the Board went to a place and said, only 16 people can live here. That should be reported to us, and if from inspection of all the surrounding circumstances, I thought 20 ought to be allowed, I would move to that effect. It is interfering with our prerogative and jurisdiction to lay down definitely that an officer of the Board shall decide.

The Registrar-General.—In the common lodging house byelaws is there anything about the number of persons who shall occupy a house?

The Medical Officer of Health.—No, that is simply dealt with by the Ordinance.

Mr. Hooper.—Have we power to permit a greater number of people to occupy a floor than is laid down in the Ordinance?

The Medical Officer of Health.—As far as I am aware, no.

Mr. Hooper.—Then I would ask why we committed such an illegal act the other day. We allowed double the number provided to reside in houses at Tai Hang.

The Medical Officer of Health.—In that instance we said no prosecutions would take place at present.

Mr. Hooper.—There a point arises. In some villages outside Victoria I would allow more to occupy floors.

The Registrar-General.—I would like to ask applicants whether they would prefer the old procedure to be continued, or whether they would prefer a procedure which would cause a delay of a fortnight at the least. I am quite sure applicants would be pleased if the old procedure were adhered to. I never heard of an application being refused. The only question that has arisen is the question of measuring in which, apparently, there is no option. We have here unofficial members who are strong advocates of red tape.

Hon. Mr. Hewitt.—If it is laid down distinctly that it is to be settled by the Board, it cannot be settled by Government Officials behind the backs of the Board.

A committee composed of Mr. Lau Chu-pak, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper and the Medical Officer of Health was appointed to deal with applications.

THE TANK QUESTION.

Application was made to the Board for permission to retain a water tank at 134, Queen's Road Central. The premises were used as an eating house and the tank referred to was an absolute necessity for storing water to meet the requirements of the trade.

The Medical Officer of Health thought a meter might be supplied. The tank was not kept clean.

Hon. Mr. Hewitt.—The house being supplied with a meter there does not appear to be any necessity for this tank.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

Based on a death rate per 1000 per annum, the death rate of the whole Colony for the week ended November 2nd was 19.9 and for the week ended November 9th, 21.9 as against 22.6 for the corresponding week last year.

BAT RETURN.

During the week ended November 16th, 880 rats were caught, but none were plague infected. Only one of the 957 caught during the following week was found to be infected.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, November 25th

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

DISPUTED OWNERSHIP.

Tsui Heung-po brought action against the Tung Yu firm to recover \$788.40 due for goods sold and delivered.

Mr. O. D. Thomson, who appeared for the plaintiff, said the defendant firm carried on business at Tungsha village in the Fukien Province. On November 2nd a junk arrived here from that village with a quantity of cargo consigned to the plaintiff. In the course of a conversation with the junk owner the plaintiff learned that there were goods on board consigned by the defendant firm, who sent a man in charge of them. The name of that man was the same as the present claimant. As the defendant owed the plaintiff money he issued a writ of foreign attachment, and notice of the claim was not given until twelve days after the writ had been delivered.

His Lordship delivered judgment for plaintiff on the writ, and then an issue was tried to decide who was the owner of the property seized, Mr. H. K. Holmes appearing for the claimant who, he said, was a trader in Hongkong and had his goods shipped to this port by the same junk as the plaintiff.

After hearing the evidence, His Lordship gave judgment for the claimant, with costs.

Wednesday, November 27th.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT.

In the matter of In Kai-sing alias In Chan, and in the matter of the Chinese Extradition Ordinance, 1889.

Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., who was instructed by Mr. Otto Kong Sing, and who appeared for the prisoner, said he understood his Lordship proposed to fix the hearing of the motion he intended to move at some later date. The motion did not state on its face the grounds upon which it was made, but it was an appeal generally against his Lordship's decision. It was not usual to state the grounds, but he intended to move practically on the same grounds as he moved for *habeas corpus*. He proposed to ask the Full Court to consider one further ground, which was a sub-ground of the second ground, and that was that the evidence went to show that the requisition was made with a view to punish an offence other than an extradition crime.

The hearing of the motion was adjourned *sine die*.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

SEQUEL TO A PIRACY.

His Lordship delivered judgment in the case in which Ip Tsung-nin claimed from Kwong Tse-king the delivery up of a junk now lying at Shaikiwan, or in the alternative, \$1000 damages. Mr. F. B. L. Bowley (of Messrs. Dennys and Bowley) appeared for the plaintiff,

and Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) for the defendant.

The Acting Puisne Judge said—I thought it better to give a written judgment in this case because it is a question that has never been decided before, and it might be useful in the Summary Court to have the reasons on record on which I base my judgment.

The facts as I find them in this case are as follows:—The plaintiff, Ip Tsung-nin, is a salt fish dealer carrying on business at Chak Po village, Yueng Kong district province of Kwangtung. He was the owner of two fishing junks which went out as usual to fish in company on the 9th of the 7th moon (August 17, this year). One of these junks in respect of which this claim is brought had a crew of eight men, including the master—Kong Luk. When at sea at about 3 a.m. next morning (18th August) the vessel was boarded by armed pirates who overpowered the crew and forced them into the hold taking possession of her and navigating her to Ko Lan—an uninhabited spot on the Chinese coast. Here the crew were put on shore at about 3 p.m. on the 12th day of the 7th moon (August 20th). The pirates then sailed off with the vessel and the boat in which they had come aboard. The crew made their way home by land, arriving at Chak Po on the 20th of the moon (August 28th) where they reported to the owner. The plaintiff had in fact received the news of the piracy of this vessel on the 11th of the moon (August 19th) from the junk which had been her consort. On September 9th he went in company with the master to Kong Moon, thence to Macao and thence came to Hongkong where on September 24th, he found the missing vessel at anchor at Shaikiwan, and reported to the Harbour police. The delivery up of the junk was demanded by plaintiff's solicitor, but defendant was only willing to comply on being satisfied by the plaintiff's solicitor and on receiving from plaintiff the amount of the purchase money with interest and all his expenses. This action was then commenced. The defendant, Kwong Tse king, is a Taoist priest living at Shaikiwan. He has there a paper business and he also deals in junks which he buys for resale. On the 2nd of September he saw the vessel, in respect of which he is now sued, at anchor at Shaikiwan twenty or thirty *cheung* from the shore, with a bamboo cross conspicuously exhibited on the port side. This is the customary manner at Shaikiwan of giving notice that a junk is for sale. Having inspected the vessel he entered into negotiations for her purchase with one Kwan Shing, alias O Kwan, the apparent owner, who produced to him her Hongkong licence as a fishing junk which was regular and in order. The 9th September having been agreed as the date for the completion of the purchase, the defendant put an advertisement, in the form of Exhibit 2, in three Chinese newspapers, and this advertisement remained in those papers from the 4th to the 9th day of September. Finally, the purchase was completed on September 9th, in the office of defendant's solicitors—Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist—a bill of sale being executed and the sum of \$950 being paid over as purchase money. In my opinion the plaintiff has established that the junk, the subject of this claim, is the vessel of the possession of which he was forcibly deprived by an act of piracy on the morning of the 18th August. It cannot be maintained that he has in any way so conducted himself as to make it inequitable for him to assert his claim of ownership. It was urged by Mr. Grist that had the plaintiff come at once to Hongkong and Macao, the only places where a stolen junk can be disposed of, he would have been able to forestall the sale to the defendant. I see no reason however, why the plaintiff should not have waited—as, in fact, he did wait—for a reasonable time to get direct tidings of the vessel from his crew. In any case it is not contended that the facts are such as would support a plea of estoppel. The plaintiff's claim then is founded upon the general rule of law that no one can transfer a better title than he himself possesses and asks for the possession of the junk, or, in default, for her full value in money.

This defence is shortly "Market Over," that is to say, defendant claims the benefit of the doctrine that where the goods are sold openly

in a market in the ordinary course of business of such market, the buyer acquires a good title. I propose to examine shortly the principles of the doctrine "Market Overt." There is no doubt that in England the rules of market overt apply only to a limited class of retail transactions. The law is summarised in the note to Section 22 of Chalmers's Sale of Goods Act, 3rd edition, as follows:—"All shops in the city of London are market overt for the purposes of their own trade, but a wharf in the city is not market overt, and a sale by sample is not within the custom because the whole transaction must take place in the open market and not merely the formation of the contract. So, too, a sale of jewellery to a tradesman in his showroom is not within the custom. Outside the city of London—markets with the custom of market overt may exist either by grant or prescription—but it seems that the custom does not apply to a market established by a local Act." Now, the rules of market overt are based upon the custom of England; they do not apply in Scotland, nor in the United States of America. They have been adopted in some of the States of the Australian Commonwealth, but have never apparently been recognized in New South Wales. In this Colony they have been expressly enacted by Section 24 (1) of the Sale of Goods Ordinance, 1896. The words of the sub-section are fuller than those of the corresponding section of the English Act and, so far as material, are as follows:—"Where goods are openly sold in a shop or market in this Colony in the ordinary course of the business of such shop or market the buyer acquires a good title to the goods." Now it seems to me that the effect of the section is to extend the rules of market overt in the widest sense to the whole Colony.

It cannot be maintained for example, that the word "markets" is to be construed in the limited sense of Section 71 of the Public Health and Building Ordinance: on the contrary, the word must be given a broad general sense. I prefer to suppose that the Legislature, recognizing the position of the Colony as a great trading mart, intended to give absolute security to a purchaser in good faith without notice, subject only in the case of stolen goods to the reverting to the owner of the property or the goods on conviction of the offender. I have next to inquire:—First—Do the provisions of the section apply to a junk? Secondly—Was this sale a sale in open market? On the first point, it is true, as Mr. Bowley maintains, that there is no market overt for ships: but the reasons for that doctrine clearly appear in the case by which it is established—"Hooper v. Gumm, 2 Chancery Appeals 282. The case of a junk is not parallel to that of a ship, for there is no statutory provision limiting the transfer of property in junks, and I am of opinion that a junk falls within the definition of goods—"Chattels personal other than things in action and money"—given in Section 2 of the Sale of Goods Ordinance. As to the second point, I have no doubt that Shaikwan is an open market for the sale of junks, and it seems clear that the junk was openly sold according to the custom of that market. I am certainly bound to find upon the evidence that the defendant bought in good faith and without notice of any defect or want of title on the part of the sellers. I, therefore, give judgment for the defendant who will get his costs of the action.

Thursday, November 28th.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

FAILURE OF AN AGENT.

Mr. M. J. D. Stephens applied for a receiving order in the estate of J. C. Logan, who carried on business as an agent on the harbour. The assets, according to the affidavit filed were:—steam launch, \$6,000, stock in trade, \$3,000, furniture \$300, and debts due \$5,200, a total of \$14,500; while the liabilities amounted to \$15,500, or thereabouts. Mr. Stephens asked that a manager to the estate be appointed under the direction of the Official Receiver. The debtor's business was a harbour one and was still running. Unless a manager was appointed, what might be gained would be lost to the

creditors. He suggested that Mr. Hurley, who knew the business and had kept the debtor's accounts for some years, might be appointed.

His Lordship—What, the washing man?

Mr. Stephens—Mr. Hurley, Your Lordship.

His Lordship—I think you had better interview the Official Receiver on that point.

Mr. Kemp—I have not heard of this application before.

His Lordship (to Mr. Stephens)—You had better see Mr. Kemp and then make your application.

The receiving order was granted.

PUBLIC EXAMINATION.

The adjourned examination of Lam Pak-leung, the debtor, was continued by Mr. Kemp. According to the assessment debtor's property was valued at \$24,000 but it was put down in the bankruptcy as \$15,000. Witness agreed to pay debtor \$3,000 in respect of eight houses in High Street. Lam Pak-leung owed him \$15,000 at that time.

And you paid him \$3000, why?—To buy him out of the Hop Yick.

If you had not paid the \$3000 into Court the receiving order would not have been made?—I don't know anything about that.

The firm also had two pile driving machines valued at \$4000; did you agree to pay him one-fifth share in them?—They were entered in the shop book.

So were the houses?—There were land deeds for the shops with signatures.

The houses were in your name?—They were in the Hop Yick's name.

His Lordship—Did you pay anything for the pile drivers?—He drew money from the shop.

Mr. Kemp—Your brother drew \$15,000 from the shop; did you repay that?—No.

Why did you say you did. In the affidavit you state he owed you \$10,000 which you had repaid to the Hop Yick?—I had to acknowledge the debts of the Hop Yick.

The further hearing was adjourned.

WEDDING.

An interesting wedding took place at St. John's Cathedral on November 28th when Lieutenant John Thomson Hope Royal Garrison Artillery, son of Major-General J. E. Hope, Royal Artillery, of Hanley-on-Thames, England, was married to Miss Christine Jessie Shelton Hooper, elder daughter of Mr. A. Shelton Hooper of "Rougemont," Hongkong. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. F. T. Johnson, who was assisted by the Rev. G. Searle, chaplain to the forces. The bride, who looked charming in a gown of ivory white satin, embroidered in pearls, with sleeves of point lace, and a Brussels net veil over a wreath of orange blossom, was given away by her father. The bridesmaids were Miss D. Shelton Hooper and Miss K. Clarke. Their dresses were of pale blue taffeta with sleeves of ruched Valenciennes lace; they wore large Leghorn hats trimmed with La France roses and carried bouquets of pink roses. The bride's mother wore a dress of black and white pin spot silk with touches of pale blue, and a flowered red toque. She also carried a bunch of red roses and heliotrope tied with heliotrope ribbon. Lieut. R. S. Lucy, R.G.A., was best man.

The bridegroom's gift to the bride was a pendant of amethyst and pearls, and to the bridesmaids, gold chain bracelets.

There was a large and representative gathering at the Cathedral to witness the ceremony. His Excellency the Governor and Lady Lugard were in attendance, and among others were Admiral Sir Arthur Moore, Commodore A. G. Stokes, Sir Henry Berkley, Hon. Mr. F. H. May and Mrs. May, Hon. Mr. H. Keswick, Colonel Kent, most of the officers of the R.G.A., the Staff-Sergeant and Sergeants of the Artillery and the men of No. 1 section, 87th Company, R.G.A.

The Cathedral was prettily decorated with ferns and greenery. Pot plants lined the aisle, while the arches under which the wedding party walked were dressed with green leaves, and the scene was made the more brilliant by the attendance of many army officers in uniform. A large and interested crowd was in attendance when the bride, leaning on the arm of her father, entered the church, and the service was proceeded with. On its conclusion, as the newly

married couple walked down the aisle, the hymns "The voice that breathed o'er Eden" and "Oh, Perfect Love," were sung, and Mendelssohn's wedding march was played. At the church entrance the brother officers of the bridegroom had congregated, and drawing their swords, formed an arch of glistening steel under which the bridal party passed while the "joyous wedding bells" were pealing.

On the conclusion of the ceremony the guests adjourned to "Kingsclere," which was lent by Mrs. Sachse for the reception. And the commodious and prettily decorated hall in this well known boarding house was an ideal place for the holding of such a function. When the guests had all assembled and tendered their congratulations to the happy couple, and the bride had cut the wedding cake with her husband's sword;

The Hon. Mr. F. H. May proposed the toast of the bride and bridegroom. In doing so he said he fancied he owed that privilege to varied circumstances. In the first place his old friend Mr. Shelton-Hooper was an old civil servant and Hongkong civil servants stuck together "like wet turf"—as they said in Ireland—through thick and thin; through right and some said through wrong but civil servants did not admit that (laughter). Then again the wedding they had just witnessed linked to ether in an interesting manner the present and the past, for the grandfather of the bridegroom was one of the old time merchants in Canton, and the bridegroom's mother was born in the neighbouring colony of Macao. Now they all knew that the growth, expansion and exigencies of the trade of Canton led to the foundation of this Colony of Hongkong, and it thus happened that the descendant of one of the pioneers of trade in Canton found a bride in this prosperous Colony which sprung from the ashes of the old hong system in the neighbouring empire (cheers). All present would claim the bride as a daughter of Hongkong, for though she was not born here she came here at a very tender age—before she was a year old. They would agree too that one of the principal features of this island was its great natural beauty, and agree also that the bride in growing up in its air daily, had taken on not a little of the beauty of her surroundings (cheers). A wise Irishman had said that when you go into the matrimonial market beauty was not the only thing to seek for, for "the most beautiful woman might have the devil's tongue, the devil's temper, and the devil's behaviour all out." He need hardly assure the bridegroom that the bride possessed none of those failings. He (Mr. May) claimed to have a little discrimination in these matters, for when he was in the matrimonial market himself he looked into a good many pairs of eyes before he found what he wanted—(laughter)—and what he was looking for was what midshipmen called "a jolly good sort." He left it to those present to judge whether his quest was successful or not (cheers). If they looked into the eyes of the bride—he did not think he would advise them to do so just then when that belted warrior was at her side, with a dangerous looking sword—(laughter)—but if they had looked last week, or last month, they would have found looking out of the windows of her soul, brightness, unselfishness and joyousness that was a credit to her youth. That would be about enough to make most men happy. Those qualities would be for Mr. Hope to make the most of in the future. Mr. Hop had shown discrimination. It was to be expected that as an officer of the Royal Regiment of Artillery he should be a man of mental capacity, and nothing would bore him so much after a little time as to have a stupid wife. But there were those in the Philharmonic Society who would miss the bride's nimble fingers; the Amateur Dramatic Society would also miss her. And those thoughts of her nimble memory and her nimble fingers augured no mean intellect for the bride. If they looked again into her eyes they would see shining out that bright intelligence which would quite satisfy Mr. Hope. He would remind the bridegroom that he was taking the bride from a happy home and happy surroundings, and while his first duty was to his King and country, his second was to make his wife as happy in the future as she had been in the past (cheers). Mr. Hope could take it from an old stager that the royal road to that object was to continue that chivalrous courtesy

when she was his wife that he had evinced whilst wooing her, and to be in all things, and at all times, unselfish. He gave them the toast "The bride" and joined with it the name of the bridegroom. He felt very lonesome himself when they proposed his wife's health and left himself out. "Long may they live; happy may they be; and may their shadows never grow less."

The toast was honoured amid great cheering, and Mr. Hope in replying thanked all for the hearty way they had honoured it, and Mr. May for his kind remarks, and then proposed 'the health of the bridesmaids,' which was also heartily honoured.

Lieut. and Mrs. Hope will spend the honeymoon at Poochow. The bride's travelling dress was a cream coat and skirt trimmed with silk braid, and a goblin blue hat.

The presents totalled about 30, and included a Japanese silver tea set from brother officers, R.G.A.; large silver bowl, from brother officers, 87th Co. R.G.A.; a silver centre-piece, from the Sergeants' Mess, R.G.A.; a silver centre-piece from N.C.O.'s and men, 8th Co., R.G.A.

EVOLUTION OF HONGKONG.

[Written for the *Hongkong Daily Press*.]

(Continued from last week.)

IX.

Sir Henry Pottinger, who had learned his business in India during the stirring times of the early nineteenth century, when the East India Company was busy setting up and bringing under administration its conquests of the previous century, was a man of different character from Elliott, and had the enormous advantage over him of knowing his own mind. On the 11th October Canton was taken and the country round Ningbo without difficulty, and almost without opposition, occupied and held during the winter of 1841-42; and it is noteworthy as indicating the earnestness which the Chinese army of the day, especially the Manchew portion of it, threw into the struggle, that nearly all the fatalities, which the British army did its best to minimise, were caused by the direct action of the Chinese troops themselves, who refused to surrender, and got drowned or otherwise killed in hopeless flight, or actually committed suicide.

During the winter and succeeding spring the forces of the expedition were largely reinforced, and Sir Henry Pottinger found himself strong enough to take Shanghai and the Tartar garrison at Chupu; after which he ascended the Yangtze. Here after the capture of the Tartar garrison at Chiao kang he blockaded the Imperial Canal, then the only available and certain means of communication between South and North. This act on the part of the British forces commenced to bring China at last to her senses, and negotiations for a regular peace with the belated sanction of the Emperor were commenced. Still but little progress was made, the envoys endeavouring to protract the preliminaries, which were only in the end brought to an issue by Pottinger's threat to take Nan king, then the second city in the empire. This was effective in converting the Emperor, who commenced to feel his throne quivering, and was ready to accept any terms, with the reserve that as soon as the terrible English Fleet had gone away, he would have a gay time of revenge. Personally Taokwang was an abler man than his predecessor, but the dynasty had fallen on decadent days, and the Emperor, never venturing out of the immediate surroundings of Peking—at most going in a close litter surrounded by guards to his park at Jehol, knew nothing from his own observation of the condition of the Empire at large, and was entirely dependent on the immediate palace attendants; whose interest lay naturally in misrepresenting everything in their own interests.

The treaty was signed at last, the Emperor's full authorisation to all the terms having arrived a few days previously, on the 29th August 1842, and curiously enough an unbidden guest, the signature was witnessed by the French Captain Croille, commanding the frigate "Erigone," who had come all the way up

from Woosung on board a Chinese junk manned by his own crew, to be present at the ceremony. His visit at the time was not altogether welcome, but in view of the fact that the treaty was made in no selfish or exclusive spirit, but that all were to be welcome whencesoever they came, the presence of the French representative was a good augury for the future.

So ended the first act of our story. We had now an acknowledged position in China, China had been taught a lesson, a severe one, as to the political geography of the world, and had learned from unpleasant experience that there was another part of that world actually more powerful than herself; where there were other peoples, and other potentates who did not recognise the authority of the Hwangti, as the sole ruler under Heaven. We also had been taught a lesson, and a very plain one, as to the folly of permitting ourselves to be relegated to a false and inferior position, and that as we appraised our own honour and dignity, so would it be assessed by an Asiatic Power, who had at the time no other means of information as to the relative station and power of the various nations of the world. Not alone, our statesmen should have recognised, were we in this concerned for ourselves but even more in China's interest was it that the lesson should be brought home, so that she should be spared the subsequent humiliation of having to relearn the lesson.

Unfortunately, for China as well as England, Sir Henry Pottinger, notwithstanding his Indian experience had failed to thoroughly comprehend this very essential part of the programme. There is very little reason to doubt that the high Chinese officials were quite prepared at the outset to accept the enforced position, and carry out their share of the treaty without demur. An opportunity indeed very soon offered. On the return of the expedition a stay of some duration was made at Hongkong, now converted into a regular colony, and naturally there were many visitors at Canton in the December following the conclusion of the treaty; some parties went into the suburbs of the city, and some little scandal seemed to have been caused by the presence amongst them of three or four ladies. The circumstance was trivial, and probably with the exercise of a little common sense on both sides, would have ended as soon as begun. But certain mischief makers amongst the Chinese literates commenced to stir up the lower orders, and the walls were pasted with inflammatory notices before evening. The end was a riot; some of the houses were burnt, though no lives were lost. Sir Henry Pottinger was at Hongkong, but sent up Mr. Medhurst with a letter to the Viceroy. Instead of delivering it in person at the Yamen, and arranging with him for the future preservation of the peace, the old bargaining as to who should be the intermediary was permitted to be revived and it was decided to send the letter through the Chi Fu. Then commenced a struggle, the Chi Fu schemed on one pretence or other to have it sent to his residence. One Senior British Officer would only have it delivered to him on board a British man of war; but more the Hong merchants were allowed to take part in the ceremony; while instead of backing up his people for what certainly was not their fault, Sir Henry Pottinger seems to have lost his temper, and complained openly of the merchants having brought the trouble on themselves, through seeking to evade payment of the regular dues. It was unfortunately the case that certain irregularities had occurred, but the Chinese officials were as much to blame as the British; and in any case the irregularities had nothing to do with the riot, and the Viceroy had made no attempt to connect the two.

It was the first time the blunder had been committed; but it unfortunately was by no means the last; and the Canton Viceroy, and his advisers took the hint, and it required another capture of Canton and another war with China before things were finally straightened out. With regard to the spirit with which England entered into the new treaty it is sufficient to refer to the supplementary treaty entered into after the ratification of the original for the purpose of defining the details of the trade. In article VIII express provision is made for "all foreign countries whose subjects

of citizens have hitherto traded at Canton, being admitted to the five ports named in Article I on the same terms as England." Equally noteworthy are the terms under which the cession of Hongkong as a colony is described by Sir Henry Pottinger, as a sort of bonded warehouse in which merchants might deposit their goods in safety till it should suit their purpose to sell them to Chinese dealers or forward them to one or other of the ports opened by treaty; and that under the circumstances, it had become a matter of direct negotiation with the Chinese Commissioners appointed to draw up details and trading regulations that no duties of any kind were to be levied in the Colony.

(To be continued).

CANTON.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

November 26th.

HONAM SHOOTING AFFRAY.

As a sequel to the enquiry held recently at the Chief Police Station in Hopak, Mr. Wai-Chung, the Chief of Police at Honam has sent a courteous letter of apology to the British Commander in which he admitted that the police did fire their revolvers in a reckless fashion at the bluejackets of H.M.S. "Moorhen" and H.M.S. "Sandpiper" and two other foreigners. He apologised for their conduct on that occasion, adding that the men had been punished and the deed recorded officially.

THE OBNOXIOUS CUSTOMS PATROL.

On account of the recent decision that the Customs should patrol the different rivers in the Canton Delta, a Chinese Association is to be formed for the sole purpose of keeping the Central Authorities informed as regards foreign movements in all spheres and thus act as a check for further encroachments on what they consider their rights. Members ip, unlimited; entrance fee \$1, devoted to pay telegraphic and other expenses.

MACAO.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

THE PUBLIC LIGHTING.

I have many times drawn attention to the unsatisfactory lighting of the city thoroughfares, by the Société Electrique d'Extrême Orient. The latest word on the subject is that the Société has petitioned the Local Senado for permission to suspend operations for three months! This permission has been given, or will be given, and the Senado is to invite tenders for lighting the city in the interval by kerosene lamps. The community would like to know who is going to pay the cost of renewing the public lamps that have been either damaged or utterly destroyed? According to the contract with the Société Electrique that company is responsible for whatever damage has been done, as it was the company's duty to keep the old lamps in a state fit for use in case of a breakdown in the electric supply. It therefore rests with the Local Senado to see that the community is not saddled with an expenditure which is not properly chargeable to the public funds. There seems to be scarcely one single lamp in good order in the city. And now we need them again. We have not yet reached the stage of municipal progress in Macao when we can afford to regard the public kerosene lamp with scorn and contempt. Municipally, we still live in the Middle Ages.

THE MACAO GARRISON.

The time-expired soldiers are to be relieved by men who are due to arrive at Hongkong by one of the H.A.L. steamers early next month.

"Rio Lima" will shortly be returning home. The British gunboat "Moorhen" is now here.

A RELIGIOUS FESTIVAL.

The first three days of next month are to be devoted at Mongha to honouring the memory of San Francisco Xavier, who, nearly three hundred years ago, died on St. John's Island.

His Majesty the King has not been advised to exercise his power of disallowance with respect to Ordinance No. 11 of 1907, entitled An Ordinance relating to Life Insurance Companies.

COMMERCIAL.

The Kobe Market Report published under the direction of the Kobe Foreign Board of Trade and dated Kobe, Hiogo, 14th Nov., 1907, states:—

IMPORTS.

Cotton.—American:—The unsettled state of the Cotton market during the past fortnight has caused much fluctuation in prices both in the home market and locally. Encouraged by this state of affairs speculators are taking the opportunity of short-selling at much below home rates, and legitimate business has become impracticable, although during the early part of the fortnight a fair amount of legitimate transactions were put through. Notwithstanding the financial panic experienced in New York recently, and the stringency of the home money market, prices of American cotton appear to show slight signs of an upward tendency owing to unfavourable crop reports. Latest quotation of "forward" Middling is reported at Yen 35.50. "Spot" is very quiet owing to the unsettled state of "forward" prices. **Indian.**—In spite of the heavy drop in price of American cotton, Indian staples have maintained comparatively high rates, in consequence of which no "forward" transactions are reported, with the exception of short-sale "covers" by speculators. "Spot" is dull and quiet and business is small in "re-sales." Quotations are: Akola Khanguam Yen 22; Bengal Yen 21 to Yen 21.50. Chinese:—A very fair amount of business has been done in "forward," owing to the decline of silver, at following rates: Best, Yen 27.50, Common, Yen 23.50. There is no change to report in "spot." **Shirtings.**—Market settled down into a quiet state. Cotton Goods and Fancies, Worsteds and Woollens.—Some good lines were placed for forward delivery within the past fortnight, both in heavy Woollens and Cotton goods. Business, however, is very hard to put through on account of the high prices ruling on the home market and the inability of the market here to respond. Deliveries are progressing fairly well. **Metals.**—Stocks have been reduced, and dealers are turning their attention to next year's requirements. **Sugar.**—Beet.—Market dull. No business. Cane.—**Raw.**—The market is quieter. Muscovados Basis 96 per cent. Polarisation, Colour 12; D.S. average is quoted at Yen 5.50 c.f.f. per picul. **Osaka Refined.**—The market is stagnant. At the auction of the Osaka Refinery's Sugars held on the 3rd instant, out of 7,500 bags offered, 5,500 bags were disposed of at unchanged prices, and 2,500 bags of lowest grade Rd, at a decline of 28 sen per bag.

EXPORTS.

Copper.—Prices quite nominal, no business. **Fish Oil.**—Market quiet with little enquiry, no transactions reported. Quotations:—Sardine Yen 7.75; Shark Yen 8.80; Cod Yen 9.50; Whale Yen 9.00. **Rice.**—Market steady. **Cotton Yarn.**—The market is lifeless and no business has been done. Prices have declined by 50 sen since our last report. **Vegetable Wax.**—Market inactive, quotation has advanced. **Matting.**—There has been a slightly easier tone in the market, as buyers have refused to pay the prices demanded, but what parcels have changed hands have realised full limits. **Straw Braid.**—A good demand existed throughout the period under review, and fair settlements have been reported. Prices have been well maintained, and the market closed very firm. **Chip Braid.**—The demand for these has been increasing steadily, but quotations continued too high to lead to much business.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Prinz Ludwig*, sailed on 22nd Nov. 1907. For Smyrna:—5 cases Essential Oil. For Genoa:—255 bales Raw Silk, 100 bales Cassia, 75 bales Waste Silk, 19 bales Hemp, 10 casks Ginger, 10 cases Bristles, 6 package kattanware. For Genoa and Hamburg:—300 bales Cassia. For Antwerp and Hamburg:—40 cases Bristles. For Amsterdam:—325 rolls Matting, 100 cases Ginger, 75 casks Ginger. For Rotterdam:—175 cases Preserves. For Bremen:—322 rolls Matting, 100 casks Preserves, 30 bales Feathers. For Bremen and Hamburg:—563 half-chests Tea, 225 cases Gum Elemi, 30 bales Feathers, 22 half-chests Tea, 7 cases Cigars. For Hamburg:—120 cases China-ware, 110 bales Canes, 100 casks Preserves, 64 cases Preserves, 35 cases Human Hair, 10 cases Camphorwood Trunks, 6 bales Feathers, 5 cases Aniseed, 2 cases Feathers. For Copenhagen:—100 bales Feathers. For London:—12 cases Cigars.

YARN.

Mr. P. Edeljee, in his Report, dated Hongkong 29th November, 1907, states:—A change for the worse has overtaken this market, and during the past fortnight business has been particularly dull, with only a trifling demand for special chops to meet immediate country orders. Holders, generally, are anxious sellers, and would willingly meet the market, but without an outlet for their purchases dealers are not inclined to increase their holdings or interest, and for anything outside special requirements, will not offer at any price. Values have further receded \$1 to \$2 per bale to which reduction some holders are not willing to respond. Sales during the interval have been nearly equally divided between Nos. 10s and 20s which form the bulk of the settlements, the other counts being almost neglected. Stocks show little change from our last estimate and should not be considered heavy under ordinary circumstances. Bombay is reported dull with little doing either for Europe or China. Sales of the interval aggregate 1,020 bales, arrivals amount to 4,761, unsold stock estimated at 16,000, and sold but uncleared stocks in native hands at 15,000 bales. **Local Manufacture.**—Still nothing doing. **Japanese Yarn.**—The only business of the interval is a single sale of 78 bales No. 20s at \$127. **Raw Cotton.**—There has been nothing doing in Indian descriptions, the market being entirely bare of stock. In China kinds about 100 bales Hongchow are reported to have changed hands at \$21. **Stocks.**—Quotations are: Indian \$18 to \$21 and China \$22 to \$25. Exchange on India has fluctuated slightly in sympathy with silver and shows a small advance, closing steady to-day at Rs. 152½ for Post. On Shanghai 7¼ and on Japan 98½. The undermentioned business in imported and local spinings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 23rd instant, viz: **Indian.**—Market active, total sales about 11,000 bales, prices showing an advance of half to one Tael per bale; and stocks both in first and second hands estimated at 98,000 bales. **Japanese.**—Sales of nearly 2,000 bales are reported at stiffening rates on the basis of Tls. 84½ to 91 for No. 16s, and Tls. 92 to 99½ for No. 20s. **Local.**—No business from first hands.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 21st November, 1907, states:—The market is at an absolute standstill, no one is doing anything and clearances of old purchases are falling off. Such a sorry state of affairs as now exists in the trade has never before been experienced in the memory of any one here, and it would seem we are only beginning to realise the seriousness of things. Disappearances amongst the smaller fry of dealers are becoming daily occurrences, and the liabilities of recent openly avowed failures become more and more enhanced. The indebtedness of the Canton merchant connected with Newchwang whose failure we mentioned last week is now estimated as over six and a half lakhs of Taels, the greater part falling on the dealers in Newchwang itself, putting that market in a chaotic state, completely stopping business in the ordinary channels. Stocks, it is said, are small and further means will probably be found for sending up additional supplies without the aid of the Native Banks, who are declining to finance any business with that Port, so that Shanghai's last hopes as regards that quarter have been dashed to the ground. It is said that Tientsin is very short of stock in Native hants, but that the merchants there are waiting until Newchwang is closed before buying, hoping to obtain better terms then. This may be so, but no movement has taken place here, though perchance the recent enquiry for Indian Cotton Yarn may be some indication of it. The Manchester market is easier, but prices are still considerably over anything this market can touch. Cotton in Liverpool has ruled a little easier, declining to 5.82d. for spot on the 19th instant, when futures were quoted 5.60d. November and 5.54d. March, but yesterday's quotation for spot is five points up, namely 5.87d. for Mid-American and 10½d. for Egyptian. The New York price for the former for January is 10 cents, March option falling as low as 9.90 cents, but has recovered to 10.23 cents, according to latest advices. There has been a more active demand for Indian Yarn both for the Tientsin and Szechuen markets, but buyers have succeeded in keeping prices down. Considerably more than is reported is said to have been done, holders here for the most part being anxious to realise, in spite of the news of a rise of three to four Rupees in the Bombay

market. In the same way with Japanese spinings prices here remain practically stationary although on the Osaka Exchange quotations are a yen to a yen and a half higher. Clearances this week, possibly to some extent owing to the wet weather, have been very poor, some of the leading houses complaining they not are fifty per cent. of the average for several weeks past. Corea has been the most active, deliveries for shipment thence being quite satisfactory. This has only been possible, however, by the dealers having exchange in hand at the higher rates, as it is said prices have not gone up in Corea, and if they did it would probably let Japanese manufactures into the market. Hankow continues to take fair supplies, and this week has bought American Drills to a moderate extent on the basis of Tls. 4.00 for 3-yard, it is said. The current business is almost nil. A sale from second hand holders is reported of 500 bales Pepperell Drills at Tls. 4.40 net for shipment to Bombay. The figures for these are coming down to quite a manageable size, being now inside 40,000 bales. Two small parcels of White Shirtings were sold by first hands from stock—quite a retail transaction. The Auctions continue in full swing with comparatively good results, considering. Here and there a chop meets with disfavour, or no demand, and the result is a drop of a mace or more, but on the other hand small advances were much more noticeable. All weights of Grey Shirtings appear to be in good request. White Shirtings were rather in and out, but Irishes and Bleached T-Cloths were firmer. Grey T-Cloths and Jeans were all lower, some extra weights of the latter being introduced to-day. Turkey Reds went irregularly with the further increased quantities this week. At the cheaper prices it might be expected they would go more freely into consumption, but there are no signs of it as yet, total deliveries still being under last year to some date. **East Black Cotton Italians.**—Looking at large stocks at present here we consider the prices realised at this morning's sale, though somewhat irregular, to be very satisfactory. **Woollens.**—These are showing some improvement, though it is not very consistent, but still the tendency is there. **Cotton Yarn.**—**Indian.**—The market has shown a distinctly firmer tone throughout the interval, it being quite refreshing at the same time to find a good general enquiry prevailing. The volume of business has once more assumed respectable proportions, and as clearances are going on satisfactory it may be inferred that actual consumptive requirements are responsible for the improved demand. No. 20s have after a long interval taken first place in point of quantity once more, being in good request for Hankow, where stocks are said to have been allowed to run very low. Prices on the whole are fairly well up to previous quotations which, however, do not allow much for the depreciation in exchange. In point of quantity No. 10s come next, they having been in quite active demand for Tientsin and Szechuen, but as regards prices no more can be said than for the higher count. As regards quantity No. 12s run the lower count very closely, and in proportion to the stock here make a more favourable showing which possibly accounts for the slightly firmer prices in some cases, and generally steadier tendency. As usual the bulk of that count is intended for Kiukiang.

From Messrs. Ilbert & Co's Weekly Market Report, dated Shanghai, November 21, 1907:—Business has been of a very flat character during the week, clearances having been interfered with by rain, while owing to the failures reported last week, the Newchwang market closes for the winter without either desire or capacity for purchasing any supplies, and Tientsin also appears to have all it can hold. From Chefoo, also, a failure of a native merchant, with liabilities of Tls. 70,000, is reported, which has temporarily dulled inquiry from that outlet. Trade, however, with the Yangtze is of a healthy character, and indications are not wanting of a better trade than would appear from business coming to actual importers, in the steady quantity of supplies that are going up river, and dealers are sanguine of an improving demand as the winter approaches, which at present is being heralded by the usual tentative offers at impossible prices from the smaller dealers. **Grey Shirtings.**—Only a few unimportant sales have been brought to book during the interval though inquiry has improved somewhat. **T. cloths.**—Little or nothing has been done outside the auctions where very little change took place. **Jeans.**—These goods are firmer on the whole and a very fair volume of business has been done. **White Shirtings.**—A steady tone rules in the market though demand is still rather slack. **Drills.**—Our market is quiet with a drooping tendency, a very restricted

re-sale business having been put through. Sheet-ings.—We have but little of interest to write under this head beyond that Chefoo merchants have been buying in rather small quantities. Cotton Flannels.—A little more attention has been paid to these during the week, and re-sales are returned in Indian Head at Tls. 4.12, Laconia at Tls. 4.05, and Five Brothers at Tls. 3.90. Dyed and Fancy Cottons.—Demand seems to be still confined to low quality Figured Cotton Lastings and Fast Blacks for the Hankow market; and these goods are rather firmer though prices are still very considerably below replacing cost. Fast Black Cotton Lastings at auction were weaker on the whole though a few chops improved. Worsteds and Woollens.—We have not heard of any business except at the auctions where Camlets were rather easier. Long Ells firm, and Lastings and Spanish Stripes steady. Cottons.—The market for the local staple has ruled quiet throughout the week with comparatively small supplies coming in from the country and a poor demand both for export and for local consumption. Quotations remain the same as those we gave last week. The Liverpool market is reported by Reuter as quiet with Middling American quoted at 5.87d. and Egyptian at 10d. per lb. Yarn.—Local Yarn is quiet and weaker, and Indian steady. It is reported amongst local dealers that Japanese mills are giving the market a chance to right itself by agreeing amongst themselves to discontinue shipments for some time, and higher prices are now being asked for spot cargo.

SILK.

The past fortnight has been quite devoid of interest; our market has remained without orders, either from Europe or from America; moreover the latest advices from these markets do not hold out much hope of an approaching revival. Nevertheless this persistent stagnation has not had, up to the present, a very great influence upon our Chinese markets which, although weaker, are not altogether demoralized.

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 27th November, 1907.

Apricot	\$ 14 to 25
Borax	\$ 14 „ 15
Cassia	\$ 18 „ 19½
Cloves	\$ 18 „ 32
Camphor	\$ 94 „ —
Cow Bezoar	\$ 120 „ —
Fennel Seed	\$ 7 „ —
Galangal	\$ 3 „ 6
Grapes	\$ 12 „ 14
Kismis	\$ 18 „ 21
Glue	\$ 26 „ —
Olibanum	\$ 2 „ 14
Oil Sandalwood	\$ 240 „ 360
„ Rosa	\$ 50 „ 150
„ Cassia	\$ 275 „ —
Raisins	\$ 8 „ —
Senna Leaves	\$ 6 „ 8
Sandalwood	\$ 29 „ —
Saltpetre	\$ 11 „ —

SHARE REPORTS.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending 21st November, 1907, states:—There has been a fairly quiet market since our last issue, and the transactions reported have been mostly adjustments for the December settlement. Rates on the whole have remained at the same level. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks. Some old shares have changed hands during the week at \$675 ex. 73. The new shares we quote at \$665 nominal. T. T. to-day 2/8½. Insurance.—There is no business reported. Shipping.—Ordinary Tugs have been placed at Tls. 44 and a sale is reported for December at Tls. 45. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd. Some shares changed hands for December at Tls. 72, and at this figure more are wanted. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves. At the beginning of the week cash shares changed hands at Tls. 202 and sales were made for December at Tls. 204 and Tls. 205. A slight weakening has prevailed since, and at the close we quote the cash rate as Tls. 200 with sellers for December at Tls. 202. Sugars.—Nothing doing. Mining.—No business. Lands.—Shanghai Lands have been placed at Tls. 100 and shares are wanted at this figure. Industrial.—Ewos have had a sharp decline and have been dealt in at Tls. 50 for

December. International Cottons have been placed at Tls. 53 for December. Laou Kung Mow. No reasonable offer can be got for this stock at present. Shanghai Gas Co. Shares have been dealt in at Tls. 107. China Flour Mills have improved to Tls. 61. Maatschappij, &c., in Langkats. The market opened with sales at Tls. 330 cash and Tls. 335 for December. But on the 16th when a dividend of Tls. 7½ and a bonus of Tls. 2½ were declared, the market jumped up to Tls. 345 for cash and Tls. 350 for December. These rates were not maintained, however, and gradually drifted down once more to Tls. 335 and Tls. 332½ for cash, with buyers at Tls. 337½ for December. Again the market firmed up, and yesterday at the close Tls. 337½ was offered for cash and Tls. 342½ for December. Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco Co. Shares have improved to Tls. 114 cash and Tls. 115 December. A sale for March has been made at Tls. 117½. Miscellaneous.—Hall and Holtz have been placed at \$21½. Moutries have changed hands at \$41. Astor House Shares have been dealt in at \$21. Shanghai Horse Bazaars have improved to Tls. 45. Telephones are being dealt in at Tls. 53. Loans and Debentures.—We hear of no business this week.

HONGKONG, 29th November, 1907.—There is but little change to report in the general condition of our market during the past week. A fair investment business has been done in Banks and China Fires for which there is still an unsatisfied demand, but otherwise little has been done, and rates are without material change. Exchange on London has fallen to 2/0½ T. T., the closing rate on Shanghai is 7½ T. T.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have improved is London to £76 and £74½ for the old and new issues respectively, and a fair business has been done locally at \$660 and \$655, the old shares continuing in demand, whilst of the new a few small lots are probably still obtainable at the rate. Nationals are unchanged and without business at \$51.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have been booked at \$780 and more shares can probably be placed. China Traders continue in request at \$90, and North Chinas at Tls. 85. Yangtszes have fallen in the North to \$150, which quotation we follow, and Cantons are still on offer at \$250.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have again been done at \$320 at which the market is firm. Chinas have been booked at \$88 and can now be placed at \$89.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have ruled slightly easier with sales at \$30 and \$29½, the market closing quiet with probable small sellers at \$30. Indo-Chinas, China and Manilas and Douglasses are unchanged. Shell Transports have been booked at the improved rate of 41s. and are still in request. Star Ferries continue to be enquired for at \$21 and \$11 for the old and new issues respectively.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars are obtainable at \$100, but business at the rate does not seem practicable. Luzons are enquired for in a small way at \$10.

MINING.—Raubs have hardened and are in request at \$8½. Charbonnages are still enquired for at \$470.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks continue on offer at \$99, and Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves at \$67. New Amoy Docks are unchanged with sellers at \$10. Shanghai Docks, after sales at Tls. 71 and Tls. 72, are again firmer in the North, where they are wanted at Tls. 74. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves are slightly easier at Tls. 199.

LANDS, HOTELS & BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands and Kowloon Lands are unchanged at \$96 and \$36 respectively with sellers. There is a small enquiry for West Points at \$48. Hongkong Hotels are still enquired for at \$100, after sales at the rate. Humphreys Estates have been done at \$104 and more shares are procurable. Shanghai Lands are unaltered at Tls. 10.

COTTON MILLS.—We have heard of no business in this section, and quotations are unchanged.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Borneos have again been done at \$10½ cash, and at \$11 for December delivery. China Providents have declined to \$9 with sellers, and Green Island Cements to \$11½ seller. A small parcel of Fenwicks has been booked at the reduced rate of \$14. China Light and Powers are procurable at \$6, and Watsons at the reduced rate of \$10½. Langkats have improved in the North to Tls. 350.

Quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	Nominal
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai	{ \$125 }	{ \$660, buyers \$655, buyers Ln. 278 Ln. 274.10 }
National B. of China	26	\$51
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$61
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$10½, sales
China Light & P. Co.	{ \$10 }	{ \$6, sellers \$9, sellers }
China Provident	\$10	
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 50
Hongkong	\$10	\$10, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 50
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 80
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 280
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$16.75, sellers
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$67, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$99, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$61	\$10, sellers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 74
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 199
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$14, sales
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$11½, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$175, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$15
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$100, sales & buy.
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$240
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$25½
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$250, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$88½, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$90, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$320, sales
North China	25	Tls. 85, buyers
Union	\$100	\$780, sales
Yangtsze	\$80	\$150
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$96, sellers
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$10½, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$36, sellers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 100
West Point Building	\$50	\$48, buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Res. 250	\$470, buyers
Raubs	19/10	\$8½, buyers
Peak Tramways	\$10	\$12½, buyers
Philippine Co.	\$1	\$2, (new) buy.
	\$10	\$5
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$100, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$10, buyers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$15
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$38, buyers
H. Canton & M.	\$15	\$30
Indo-China S. N. Co.	25	{ \$40 } sellers { \$29 } sellers
Shell Transport Co.	21	41/-, sales & buy.
Star Ferry	\$10	\$21, buyers
Do. New	\$5	\$11, buyers
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$32, sellers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$6, sellers
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$14, sellers
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$5½, buyers
Watkins	\$10	\$2½, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$10½, sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$10
Do. Founders	\$10	\$150, buyers
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$11, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

FREIGHTS.

Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Freight Market Report, dated Shanghai, 21st November, 1907 has the following:—There is no change to report in our Homeward Freight Market since last writing and cargo is getting scarcer, although there still seems to be a certain amount of tea to go forward. Although silver has fallen so considerably it does not seem to have brought forth very much in the way of general cargo. We would draw the attention of shippers to New York via Suez Canal steamers that the rate on turmeric will be advanced to 50/- a ton from the first of December next. (cont. twice). Rates have declined a little during the past fortnight and as the closing of the Northern Ports draws nearer owners must expect to find them low owing to the extra tonnage being thrown on the Southern markets where prospects are not very brilliant as it is.

EXCHANGE.

MONDAY, November 29th.

ON LONDON.—Telegraphic Transfer	2/0 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	2/0 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/0 1/2
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/1
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	25 1/2
Credits 4 months' sight	26 1/2
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	26 7/8
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	49 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	50 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	152
Bank, on demand	152 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	152
Bank on demand	152 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	74 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	75 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	98 1/2
ON MANILA.—On demand	99
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	14 1/2 p.c. pm.
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	12 1/2
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	4 1/2 p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	4 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	73 1/2
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$ 9.75
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine per oz.	\$51.50
BAR SILVER, per oz.	2 1/2

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

		per cent.	
Chinese	20 cents pieces	84.75	discount
"	10 "	5.30	"
Hongkong	20 "	4.45	"
"	10 "	5.00	"

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

November— ARRIVALS.

22, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
22, Hupeh, British str., from Haiphong.
22, Japan, British str., from Yokohama.
22, Loosok, German str., from Bangkok.
22, Tean, British str., from Manila.
22, Tsurugisan M., Jap. str., from Kuchinozu.
23, Chiyen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
23, Fukuoku Maru, Jap. str., from Anping.
23, Soshu Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
24, Cheongshing, British str., from Tientsin.
24, Iagny, Norwegian str., from Dalny.
24, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
24, Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.
24, P. R. Luitpold, Ger. str., from Bremen.
24, Tjibodas, Dutch str., from Amoy.
24, Tonic, French str., from Yokohama.
24, Zillah, British str., from Meiji.
25, Catherine Apcar, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
25, Chwatai, German str., from Bangkok.
25, Eastern, British str., from Kobe.
25, Erroll, British str., from Singapore.
25, Kaifong, British str., from Iloilo.
25, Kamakura Maru, Jap. str., from Kobe.
25, Triumph, German str., from Nauru.
25, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., from Melbourne.
25, Yuen-sang, British str., from Manila.
26, Choy-sang, British str., from Shanghai.
26, Kueichow, British str., from Tientsin.
26, Kumano Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
26, Mandusan Maru, Jap. str., from Japan.
26, Prometheus, Norw. str., from Bangkok.
26, Tourane, French str., from Marseilles.
26, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
27, Achilles, British str., from Shanghai.
27, Amiral Fourchon, Fr. str., from S'pore.
27, Haiman, British str., from Coast Ports.
27, Hunan, British str., from Tientsin.
27, Kutsang, British str., from Singapore.
27, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
27, Memnon, British str., from Saigon.
27, Nippon M., Jap. str., from San Francisco.
28, Dela, British str., from Bombay.
28, Devanha, British str., from Shanghai.
28, Hakata Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.

November— DEPARTURES.

22, China, Aus. str., for Singapore.
22, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
22, Hanghang, British str., for Swatow.

22, J. Diederichsen, German str., for Hoihow.
22, Kagoshima Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
22, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
22, Machew, German str., for Bangkok.
22, P. Ludwig, German str., for Europe &c.
23, Auchenblae, British str., for Newcastle.
23, Chidar, Norwegian str., for Swatow.
23, China, American str., for San Francisco.
23, Holstein, German str., for Haiphong.
23, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
23, Hong Wan I, British str., for Amoy.
23, Johanne, German str., for Haiphong.
23, Kashing, British str., for Cebu.
23, Locksun, German str., for Swatow.
23, Nyanza, British str., for Shanghai.
23, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
23, Sithonia, German str., for Singapore.
23, Sui Mow, German str., for Shanghai.
23, Yochow, British str., for Shanghai.
24, C. Diederichsen, German str., for Hoihow.
24, Chowfa, German str., for Swatow.
24, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
24, Huichow, British str., for Swatow.
24, Paoting, British str., for Ningpo.
24, Shantung, British str., for Sourabaya.
24, Zweena, British str., for Sourabaya.
25, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
25, P. R. Luitpold, Ger. str., for Shanghai.
25, Tsurugisan, Japanese str., for Kuchinozu.
26, Fri. Norwegian str., for Saigon.
26, Frithjof, Norwegian str., for Haiphong.
26, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
26, Quarta, German str., for Saigon.
26, Tango Maru, Japanese str., for Shanghai.
26, Tonkin, French str., for Europe &c.
26, Tourane, French str., for Shanghai.
26, Winnebago, Br. str., for San Francisco.
26, Wosang, British str., for Shanghai.
27, Fukuoku Maru, Japanese str., for Anping.
27, Hellas, German str., for Haiphong.
27, Kamakura Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
27, Kiukiang, British str., for Shanghai.
27, Tjibodas, Dutch str., for Batavia.
27, Tjilatjap, Dutch str., for Saigon.
27, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., for Nagasaki.
28, Erroll, British str., for Shanghai.
28, Hupeh, British str., for Hoihow.
28, Japan, British str., for Singapore.
28, Kaifong, British str., for Cebu.
28, Memnon, British str., for Shanghai.
28, Taming, British str., for Manila.
28, Tsinau, British str., for Kobe.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Catherine Apcar, from Calcutta, &c, Mr. Woodgates.
Per Zafiro, from Manila, Mrs. E. Jones, Mrs. Schartzel, Miss L. Conly, Messrs. P. Hemzikir, E. Jones, E. Rivera, J. Schartzel and M. Marts.
Per Nippon Maru, from San Francisco, &c, Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Helmer, Mr. and Mrs. Ward Leigh, Mr. and Mrs. K. S. Eginton, Mrs. B. Longsdon, Miss E. L. Pratt, Capt. J. W. Pickering, Messrs. A. S. Ivester, H. P. Newill, I. W. Young, J. A. Jeanson, J. S. T. Audley, Frank Wilson, Lewis Main, H. M. Smith, Victor Luscher, Wm. E. Moore and A. K. Watson.
Per Delta, from Bombay, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Hope, 2 infants and amah, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. O. Aldworth, Mrs. F. Graham Jones, Miss Taylor, Dr. Band, Dr. Blonke, Messrs. H. F. Chalkley, R. C. Graff, J. R. Bertram, G. S. Holmwood, T. Weir, E. J. Flanagan, G. Fighiola, G. V. dal Farra, G. Sherwood, Colleyshaw S. Openshaw, Ahau and Hallum.
Per Devanha, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Montague, Mr. and Mrs. Guthrie, Mr. and Mrs. A. Woolley, Miss Butterham, Rev. L. Jasson, Messrs. Seagekken, W. F. Tippet, S. Evans, Koeln and servant, F. G. Burton, R. D. Watt, A. Marshall and servant, F. G. Marshall, C. W. Lightbody, F. H. Maas, F. H. St. Jacob, Mothers V. Bellachio and Pasquaheim; for Bombay, Mr. S. T. Cohn and servant; for Fremantle, Mr. J. C. Kerr; for Brindisi, Mr. S. T. Cohn; for London, Mr. and Mrs. Campbell, Misses Warren, (2) and amah, Master Jack Woolley, Messrs. G. E. Gillan, G. Leamonth, A. Powlett, and Bayne; from Yokohama, for Singapore, Mr. R. G. Harvey; for Bombay, Mr. and Mrs. M. Sinha and Mr. M. Scott; for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Davidson; for London, Mr. R. W. Read; for London via India, Misses C. and J. Weir and Mr. W. S. Bolton.

Per Tourane, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Tsien, son & amah, Mrs. Larocche, Messrs. C. Jeziersky, Emile Rougeau, Fritz Heermann, de Laforcade, Francon, Madar and G. Madier; from Colombo, Mr. Yamaguchi; from Singapore, Messrs. Wray and Synap; from Saigon, Messrs. L. Vogler, Gorgen, Julien, Kerharo and Franceskaki; for Shanghai, from Port Said, Mr. Ilurean; from Djibouti, Miss Anna Boenf; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. McConaghyet and infant; from Singapore, Mr. Wedderburn; from Saigon, Messrs. Petit and Pernet; for Kobe, from Marseilles, Messrs. Arnaud Coste and Liada; from Singapore, Mrs. Okansi, Miss Otj-san, and Mr. Dastoor; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Messrs. Roux and Artizaz; from Colombo, Mr. Ibrahim; from Singapore, Mr. Harauo.

Per Tonkin, for Hongkong, from Kobe, Mrs. Teramac, Messrs. J. Clark, Nako, Akajima and Muire; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. van der Guelst and amah, Mr. and Mrs. Randon, Mrs. Audrade, Mrs. Speranza Perfecto and infant, Capt. Spink, Messrs. Chavannes, Butlérigh, Mario Malvano, Pallion Parfano, J. Ot'en, John Duthie, Valentin Boilaza and Publio Fernandez; for Saigon, from Shanghai, Mrs. Bernard, Messrs. René Kahn, J. Giraud, Santel and Le Golvan; for Singapore, from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Taylor, Messrs. Geo. Hobbs and Nakagawa; from Kobe, Messrs. K. Ma-do and T. Kaneko; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Laidlaw, Misses McIntyre, E. and M. Laidlaw, and Mr. Pichon and boy; for Marseilles, from Yokohama, Messrs. H. Ehrensperger, Fritz Wesk and S. Geliri; from Kobe, Mr. A. Feunteun, from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Suok and child, Mr. and Mrs. Brenilk and child, Messrs. Thermy, L. Allara, Vasse, Caun, Gastaud and Gavini.

Per Prinz Regent Luitpold, for Hongkong, from Bremen, Miss Olga Chr. Jensen, Miss Marie Chr. Dibbern, Messrs. Hans Claersen and Bendie Ohlsen; from Southampton, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Thorburn, Capt. and Mrs. W. H. Clifford, Mrs. G. Atheson, Miss Fleming, Miss M. A. Griffiths, Miss F. C. Giles, Rev. Shaw and family, Mr. J. R. Capel, family and servant, from Genoa, Mr. and Mrs. G. Keller Clacton, Mr. and Mrs. McStewart, Mr. and Mrs. M. Jepsen, Mrs. and Miss M. Mera, Rev. and Mrs. H. W. Oldham, Mrs. Clara Feldt, Mrs. L. Mollermann, Miss Lydia Olsson, Miss See Finhel, Miss See van Litzawite, Capt. Lt. Ross, Messrs. Oluf Franzen, W. H. Grettison, Eugen Pilloud, Otto Stihatter.

DEPARTED.

Per Tonkin, for Saigon, Messrs. Jacob E. Conner, Turlin, Thieur, Jules Viet and Foliva Santos; for Marseilles, Messrs. Macleod, R. P. Monnier, Rinand Coment, W. Boyd & E. Blune.

Per Tourane, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Marques, Mr. and Mrs. F. Herbert Rhodert, Miss Boston, Messrs. Dimardz and N. Vidal.

Per China, for San Francisco, &c, Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Stone and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Slack, Miss Mary Warren, Miss M. D. Tuell, Dr. C. E. Yeagle, Col. C. Byrne, Messrs. A. B. Sniden, F. M. Warren and party of four, W. T. Barnes, C. Schlesinger, W. W. Payne, Thos. Ryan, K. Kiene, H. C. Hunt, J. A. and E. L. Macauley.

Per P. R. Luitpold, for Shanghai, Mrs. R. Frankel, Mrs. F. Maquire, Messrs. J. W. Bolte, D. K. Blair, M. Bejonjee, F. Coral and Engel and party; for Nagasaki, Miss Okatsu and Mr. Kawahara; for Kobe, Mr. Te Chayeo; for Yokohama, Mr. Mrs. and Miss Sully, Mr. and Mrs. Shatto, Miss R. Bucky, Messrs. A. Y. S. Lefroy and A. H. Outridge.

Per Rubi, for Manila, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Hubbell and 5 children, Mr. and Mrs. Ross Cartee, Mr. and Mrs. Sibbett, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Clyde, Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Vysey, Mr. and Mrs. Thorne, Mr. Mrs. and Miss J. K. Ohl, Mrs. Miss and Master P. Lopez, Mrs. J. H. Neville, Mrs. W. Clark, Miss Julia H. Woodward, Miss S. Cartee, Miss M. M. McKeever, Capt. E. Hartman, Rev. Rex R. Moe, Master Ross Cartee, jr., Messrs. D. G. Cromer, B. F. Durr, Chas. T. Durell, C. E. Nelson, J. W. van Steedey, A. T. Hashim, R. F. Hamer, Reginald Kerr, G. S. Bross, jr., E. Wibel, P. Findler, C. H. Dods, W. Morley, J. C. Connell, A. A. Bjelland, P. Tarrant, V. Atienza and Sim Felix.

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